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Bonn's diplomatic activity in the Middle East

Walter Scheel, who recently toured Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, was his country's first Foreign Minister to visit the Arab world. Willy Brandt, who recently returned from Israel, was the first Bonn Chancellor to visit the Jewish homeland in his official capacity.

Is this unusual two-pronged strategic approach on Bonn's part a mere coincidence after long years of restraint in dealings with the Middle East or does it represent a deliberately programmed historic event?

The two visits certainly mark a turning-point in Bonn policy towards the Middle East. Optically at least the visits serve to demonstrate a balanced approach on this country's part towards the Arab-Israeli conflict that has rocked the Middle East for the past 25 years and remains the last outstanding international bone of contention after Vietnam.

In the reality of day-to-day politics balance is a mirage-like and ambiguous, not to say meaningless, formula, though. It conceals more than it reveals, it papers over rather than clarifies.

Both sides in the Middle East conflict expect this country to grant them special privileges: the Arabs on the strength of their traditional friendship with Germany since the days of the Kaiser and Rommel, the Israelis in the wake of the genocide that forms the basis of the Germans' debt of blood to the Jews that escaped with their lives.

Both have great expectations of Bonn – both verbal and financial support on the strength of old time's sake and the tragedy of the past respectively. How, in the circumstances, can this country be expected to pursue a Middle East policy that can be considered balanced?

In addition to the burden of history that weighs down politicians and diplomats alike, rendering more complex a fair decision on their part in favour of one side or the other, there is the immediate difficulty of deciding which side to take in the unresolvable conflict between Jews and Arabs.

Continual declarations of commitment to the November 1967 resolution of the UN security council are not much use. In the event of an emergency it is not the wording of the resultion but its implementation that will count, and this presents one problem after another.

Are there to be negotiations? What frontiers are to be drawn up? What rights are to be assured for the Palestinians, and on what guarantees are they to be based?

With confrontation in the Middle East as it is, balance is no more than a fine phrase. At the same time any decision in favour of one side or the other is automatically dynamite, as the short-lived era of Bonn's Middle Eastern policy tells.

In 1965 or so, when details of secret arms supplies to Israel (initiated by Franz Josef Strauss as Defence Minister) came to light, President Nasser was able to threaten Bonn with recognition by Cairo of East Berlin.

Herr Strauss had originally concluded the agreement because the arms supplied represented a "modest contribution by the Federal Republic towards the maintenance of peace" and because Israel "guards the back door to Europe."

Chancellor Erhard called President Nasser's courtship of East Berlin's Walter Ulbricht a hostile act and threatened to cut off development loans to Egypt in return. The Egyptians considered the mere threat of this to be treachery.

In those days, at any rate, the Arabs were able to bring effective pressure to bear on Bonn by threatening to grant East Berlin diplomatic recognition. At the same time the Israelis reminded this country of Germany's responsibility for the death of millions of Jews.

In those days, let us face it, Bonn was open to blackmail.

With the end of the war over a quarter of a centry ago a new generation is coming to the fore in the Federal Republic. It is the generation of people who were mere children (or not even that) during the war years. Their advent marks the end of the post-war era.

This is not to say that the government, the country or the people have any intention of denying responsiblity for past crimes or consider themselves to be under no further obligation.

What now matters more is the present and the future, though as Willy Brandt put it before leaving for Israel, we must not forget "the dreadful past in relations between Germans and Jews, including German patriots of Jewish extraction."

A considerable backlog of ill-feeling unquestionably remains. After what he termed the darkest of nights President Shazar of Israel foresaw the dawn in 1965 when Bonn and Tel Aviv established full diplomatic ties.

Day has yet to break, though, and its advent cannot be forcibly accelerated by means of the special relationship to which Israeli politicians so determinedly cling.

Bonn's contribution towards East-West detente in general undoubtedly serves gradually to bridge the gap and reduce the bloodshed or the prospect thereof. In order to offset radical protest against Willy Brandt's visit, as it were, Israeli Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban were lavish in their praise of the Chancellor.

On several occasions in public they welcomed Brandt as a "statesman whose role in the development of peace and coexistence has brought him international recognition." But what practical expectations ensue?

Chancellor Willy Brandt being welcomed to Israel by Premier Golda Meir at Tel Aviv airport on 7 June (Photo: dpa)

Still another problem arises in an entirely different context. Can recognition of the reality in divided Germany and Eastern Europe as outlined by Foreign Minister Walter Scheel be applied lock, stock and barrel to the Middle East theatre?

For that matter, what importance then can be attached to Bonn's policy of balance, in which, to quote the Chancellor, the special nature of relations with Israel is to be found?

Disregarding mumbo-jumbo on both sides, six years after the Sinai campaign a number of changes have taken place in the Middle East that are of significance for Bonn policy, however.

– The two superpowers want to forestall a full-scale military confrontation into which they could be dragged at a moment's notice. They want agreement to be reached.

– On both sides in the Middle East itself there has been and continues to be an increase in the number of "doves" willing to make concessions and reach compromises, though it remains to be seen how they are to be negotiated and on what frontiers they are to be based.

– Neither Bonn's recognition of the Oder-Neisse line nor its acknow-ledgement of the existence of two German states represents a suitable framework within which a settlement could be achieved in the Middle East.

For one, peace would have to be more important than national unity. There can, in a nutshell, be no comparison between the division of Germany and the Middle East. The Middle East conflict is too far-reaching and too deep-seated to allow of comparison.

Only one lesson can be learnt from Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik*, and that is that time is needed – any amount of time – not to mention a direct exchange of views between the parties concerned, whether with or without mediation.

In this respect at least Bonn's *Ostpolitik* has been a model of change and breakthrough.

But how is one to go about pursuing a policy of balance, particularly one with a special nature? How is financial aid to be justly distributed? How are economic agreements that do bots sides equal justice to be concluded?

At Common Market headquarters in Brussels Paris and Whitehall are increasingly voicing their misgivings about preferential treatment for Israel. These misgivings are based to no small extent on fears lest the Arab countries impose an embargo on supplies of crude oil.

Can Bonn, in the circumstances, afford to pursue a policy of balance or to underline the special nature of its relations with Israel?

Bonn is certainly the worst imaginable prospect as a mediator in the Middle East. This ought to be obvious, and Arab politicians would do well not to grasp at Bonn mediation as though it were a last straw.

This country is going to have its work cut out keeping its own policy on an even keel in this tempestuous part of the world. Besides, Bonn's voice is only one of many in the concert of nations, whether it be the Common Market or the UN General Assembly.

Both Arabs and Israelis would be well advised to bear this in mind. Above all, Bonn must on no account overestimate the role it itself can play.

It remains to be seen, moreover, what will constitute the balance in Bonn's policy towards the Middle East and the special nature of relations with Israel.

So far both have merely been heralded. Their existence has yet to be borne out in the conduct of practical, day-to-day policies.

Dietrich Strothmann

(Die Zeit, 8 June 1973)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Warsaw Pact outfires, outmans Nato two to one

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Figures can tell a tale or two, and the Nato Defence Ministers meeting in Brussels will be able to report to the world at large on joint progress in armaments.

The Eurogroup members of the North Atlantic pact are boosting their military efforts, and Nato armies are coordinating their purchases, but the statistics are no cause for rejoicing and complacency.

The only yardstick by which Nato's military potential can be measured is that of the Warsaw Pact, and in military terms the East has a two-to-one superiority over the West.

Nato has some thirty divisions under arms in Central Europe. Within a few days of mobilisation the Warsaw Pact can field 97 divisions.

Now the Nato divisions may be larger in manpower terms than conventional Communist divisions and such units as the West has at the ready can be deployed fairly quickly.

But 65 of the East's nearly 100 divisions are capable of joining the fray at the drop of a hat, and they represent a total of an estimated 925,000 men under arms.

Besides, Warsaw Pact firepower is far superior to Nato's. All Eastern Bloc divisions are fully motorised and boast more tanks and guns than their Western counterparts, not to mention ground-to-air and anti-aircraft weapons.

The Warsaw Pact's superiority in tanks is truly impressive. The Soviet Union and its allies can call on some 14,000 tanks in Central Europe. Nato boasts a mere seven thousand.

Comparison of US and Soviet armed forces in Europe makes the arms and manpower discrepancy particularly apparent.

The US Seventh Army has four divisions and 1,500 tanks stationed on the Rhine and in Bavaria. After a not inconsiderable delay a further three divisions could be airlifted as strategic reserves from the United States.

The Soviet Union has 35 divisions stationed between the Vistula and the Elbe. They have three times as many tanks and twice the artillery firepower of their American opposite numbers.

Of late the Americans have been fitted out with Tow remote-controlled anti-tank missiles in order to cope with the massed firepower of the Soviet units.

This device does a good job of work but in order to prove effective in the field it must be supported by a secondary weapons system, the Dragon.

In the air too the Warsaw Pact, with 7,000 aircraft, outdoes Nato's three thousand. But Nato's air weapons, aircraft and crew training are by far the better.

At sea Nato and the Warsaw Pact are more or less level-pegging, but here too a direct comparison between the United States and the Soviet Union reveals that the Red Fleet has a two-to-one superiority overall and in some sectors a six-to-one superiority.

And as far as strategic nuclear weapons are concerned the figures have, since the last Salt agreement, been as follows: USSR 2,359 ICBMs, USA 1,710 ICBMs.

The United States remains in the nuclear lead, though, because Washington was first to develop multiple warheads and can, as a result, deliver 5,700 warheads to their targets, whereas the Soviet Union can only total 2,500.

This global nuclear shield is the real guarantee of European security. As long as American troops remain stationed in Europe, European troops remain associated with them in the system of strategic nuclear balance that in political terms has come to be known as the balance of terror.

America's worldwide nuclear potential also includes an arsenal of 7,000 tactical atomic devices fielded by US forces in Europe.

The Soviet Union counterbalances them with the aid of 700 medium-range missiles well capable of reaching every European capital and industrial centre.

Nuclear weapons thus remain the key factor in ensuring our security. A direct Soviet military attack in Europe is an unlikely prospect as long as nuclear devices are equally capable of wiping out both sides.

Even so, it is American devices that afford Europe protection. British and French nuclear armaments enable the two to assume a special strategic role for political purposes, but without American backing London and Paris are only relatively safe.

This country on the other hand is totally dependent on Washington. The nuclear non-proliferation treaty prevents Bonn from gaining even the slightest fingerhold on the nuclear trigger, so this country's strategic target must be fairly clear.

The Soviet Union knows what it wants. The Kremlin can only gain full political mobility, strategic dynamism and predominance in Europe once there are no more Americans stationed on this side of the Atlantic.

What the Kremlin wants is not war with American or Europe but to give US forces the boot and so to separate America and Western Europe militarily.

Adelbert Weinstein

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 June 1973)

Soviet diplomats keep Berliners on their toes

Tension is mounting on the hitherto peaceful diplomatic terrain of West Berlin. From the moment Soviet Consul-General Yuri Mikhailovich Zharkov arrives on the scene both the Western powers and the West Berlin Senate must take care to ensure that the first Soviet diplomat offically posted to West Berlin strictly limits himself to the activities laid down in the Four-Power agreement and does not embark on political moves to which he is not entitled.

Zharkov is not to be allowed to assume a larger role than that played by the other fifty or so heads of consulates, consulates-general and military missions in the Western half of the city.

The man from Moscow, a career diplomat and economist with experience of Berlin from a spell at the Soviet embassy in East Berlin in the fifties, will not want to play ball.

The Soviet Union has already resorted to all manner of stratagems in order to try and secure for its consul-general special rights on arrival and making his initial round of visits.

It is evident that the Kremlin has not abandoned its attempts to gain a right to a say in the affairs of West Berlin, thus to all intents and purposes changing the status of the three Western sectors of the city from a three-power to a four-power one.

West Berlin is ready and waiting for all manner of tricks and stratagems on the part of the new Soviet consulate-general and prepared to argue the toss by means of protocol at cocktail parties, receptions, exhibitions and the like, keeping a watchful eye on the Western salami.

The Four-Power agreement on Berlin sets out in precise detail the position of the Soviet consulate-general in West Berlin, the crucial provision being the phrase "according to the usual procedure."

Like all other members of foreign missions the Soviet consul-general is accredited with the Western Allies and subject to Allied and civilian legal provisions.

He is allowed to perform consular duties only and expressly forbidden to engage in "political functions and matters concerned with Four-Power rights and responsibilities."

These provisions were outlined in such detail because the West was most unwilling to grant the Soviet Union consular facilities in West Berlin and only did so in exchange for Soviet approval of the ties between the city and the Federal Republic.

The idea of this exchange first occurred to Egon Bahr, Willy Brandt's closest and longest-standing adviser, and Bahr advocated the exchange on a visit to Washington in April 1971.

Squabbling started in the course of the bartering over a suitable consular building. The Soviet Union owned two items of real estate in West Berlin, a run-down office block in Lietzenburger Strasse, behind the Kurfürstendamm, and a ramshackle old villa at Wannsee in the outer suburbs. Neither was suited as a consular residence.

At the Soviet Union's request the Senate bought three other plots and the idea was to exchange the one package for the other. But the Soviet Union had no intention of signing papers referring to the local authority as the State *(Land)* or Senate of Berlin.

Not until this February were the parties concerned able to reach agreement on a compromise. Separately they lodged statements of willingness to exchange the land with a notary-public. The exchange was then entered into the land register.

There was still no sign of a Soviet consul-general, though, and the Western powers had given their approval to the appointment of one in September lat year. Rumour had it that the Soviet Union was possibly no longer interested.

In the meantime officials from the Soviet embassy in East Berlin put in frequent appearances in West Berlin, much as though they were entitled to ensure that the provisions of the Four-Power agreement were upheld in the West.

A Soviet diplomat by the name of Beletski was particularly active, appearing at the West Berlin Bundeshaus with demands to examine official papers and, likewise uninvited, at Senate receptions.

It was not until forthright Ilse Reichel, the resolute left-wing Social Democratic Senator for Youth and Sport, asked him vociferously whether it was customary in Soviet diplomatic circles to appear uninvited that Beletski beat the retreat.

It remains to be seen how matters will now develop. No one is optimistic. Everyone is preparing to keep his wits about him, particularly should the Soviet consul-general try to offer the Senate tempting bait.

The Senate has nothing to do with the consular corps, though. Consular matters remain the sole responsibility of the Western powers. *Renate Marbach*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 1 June 1973)

King Olav V of Norway visits Bonn

Freedom of the individual and ... equity and security were the ... under which Chancellor Willy Br... classified the common ambitions of ... country and Norway at an official ... in Bonn for King Olav V.

King Olav of Norway was retur... state visit to Oslo paid by Pre... Heinemann of this country in Sep... 1970.

The visits show that memories ... German occupation of Norway, ... gave rise to greater ill-feeling there ... virtually any other European co... similarly occupied, no longer p... hindrance to friendship between ... and Oslo.

The award of the 1971 Nobel ... Prize to Willy Brandt provided ... positive of Norway's response ... country's desire for reconciliation ...

There are no accounts left over ... from the war years during which ... Prince Olav, as he then was, or... Norwegian military resistance.

The impassioned debate on whe... not Norway should join the Co... Market has not opened up old ... either. Older people with p... memories of the German occ... voted by and large in favour of ... the EEC.

The noes were for the most part ... people who identified the free ... economy with capitalism and felt ... voting against Common Market ... they were casting a vote ... capitalism.

Popular feeling in Norway ha... round in favour of the Commo... in next to no time. Opinion p... that 53 per cent of the popula... now in favour of the EEC. Last Se... 53 per cent voted against entry.

Common Market differences ... affected Norway's commitment ... anyway. The Soviet Union, ... nually holding military manoe... exercises within striking di... Norway, readily reminds the fo... people who live along the ... coastline that represents the ... flank of Nato how valuab... membership is.

On defence matters Bonn ... share a common viewpoint. Both ... secure maximum security by m... the Western alliance. War is ... rendered impossible rather than ... for.

In common with the other Sc... vian countries, Norway encourag... to go ahead with its policy of ... Common interests and memori... lessons learnt from history count.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine ... für Deutschland, 6 Ju...)

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■ POLITICS

Constitutional Court treads cautiously over Basic Treaty

The Second Chamber of the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe took its time before pronouncing its decision on the Bavarian government's application for an interim injunction against the Basic Treaty. It took twelve days between the handing in of the petition and the Court's decision.

The decision reached in Karlsruhe is calculated to make the irritating delay seem in retrospect the lesser evil.

After weighing up all the potential difficulties that the Constitutional Court procedure could give rise to the Second Chamber has decided to let politics take its course for the time being.

The Court's decision not to interpose a legal action in the course of a policy that affects the world is an act of sensible moderation. The authority of the Federal Constitutional Court as one of the highest bodies in the land rests to a large extent on its reputation for not over-stepping the mark.

The risk that the Fathers of Basic Law took in 1949 by setting up a far-reaching legal control of norms can only be of disadvantage to this country if its controlling function is not handled with great care.

When other political institutions — in this case the Bavarian government — fail to show such moderation it is even more important for the Court to be on guard. By setting a precedent with effects stretching across frontiers it could create totally unpredictable consequences.

The trial in Karlsruhe would have been problematical if the Court had for the time being stopped the process of ratification, not to mention the tricky political situation that would arise if the judges did ascertain in two months' time that the Basic Treaty were contrary to Basic Law: a court with sovereign political powers.

Obviously the judges in Karlsruhe were aware of their unusually broad powers — stretching even to inter-State treaties. It is precisely on the question of reunification that the Court has always been at its most wary.

One previous example concerned the Saar Statute, when the judges decided that a measure could only be disapproved as contrary to Basic Law if it *evidently* were contrary to the constitutional precept of reunification and the measure in question *could not be justified from any point of view.*

It was clear in advance that no such thing was evident since the Opposition decided against an appeal in the Bundestag on the grounds of unconstitutionality. If the constitutional judges have already reached the later decision that the Basic Treaty is indeed constitutional this can be seen, in the light of the international political consequences of the alternative, as a sign of judicial rationality and self-control.

On closer study of the reunification clauses in Basic Law we begin to doubt whether there is really a "norm" with any legal content that could come under the jurisdiction of a court.

"The entire German people is called upon to bring about the unification of Germany in free self-determination," is the exact phrasing which, it should be noted, is not in an article of Basic Law but in the preamble, and in the (last) article, number 146, of Basic Law it states that Basic Law will cease to be valid on the day when the German people freely decide on a new constitution.

Too much is expected of a court that is called upon to decide whether a certain policy is likely to achieve a certain political aim. This applies particularly to a treaty that is approved by a majority in the Bundestag and among the general public precisely because it aims at practical results, contact between men.

This is not the first time that the Federal Constitutional Court has been called upon to adjudicate on matters that are not its concern. The image of the Karlsruhe court which has received many dents during the confused procedures of the past few days will prove in the long run to be authoritative by leaving German politicians the room for manoeuvre they require if the Federal Republic is to achieve the aims set out in the preamble.

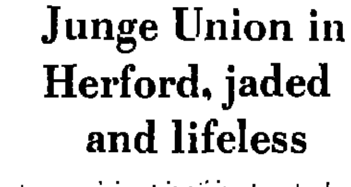
The President, who has waited for the decision on the Bavarian government's appeal is now free to carry through the process of ratification to the end as planned. *Hans Schuster*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 June 1973)



Wolfgang Mischnick and Herbert Wehner answering press questions on 4 June about their furtive visit to East Berlin (Photo: AP)

East Berlin Wehner and Mischnick visits cause a stir



News of the visit of SPD and FDP floor leaders Herbert Wehner and Wolfgang Mischnick to East Berlin on 31 May caused a considerable stir among the public.

We must be careful of reading more into these visits than simply further steps in the process of normalisation for which both German States are striving. It is to be hoped that in the near future they will be as normal as visits and consultations between Federal Republic politicians on the one hand and French, British or Rumanians on the other.

The stirs these visits cause result in the fact that they are the first of their kind and also from the many avoidable holdups that came before this start could be made.

Diplomacy — and all talks between politicians of the two German States must still involve a fair slice of diplomacy — cannot be carried out in the market place or in the eyes of the public. So basically there can be no objection that the public was not informed in advance of the Wehner-Mischnick trip.

But objections could be raised that the first news of the visit was released by East Berlin agency ADN and the first report on it was published in the SED mouthpiece *Neues Deutschland.*

Precisely at the moment at which spokesmen of both parties, the SPD and FDP, were unable to give satisfactory reactions to the visit because they were not sufficiently well-informed eye-brows were being raised, doubts thrived and critical comments were abroad.

We can work on the assumption that the talks in East Berlin served to show with total clarity that the Federal Republic will not remain silent at the renunciation of a stiff and unbending attitude but expects that the GDR will also play its part in detente, especially with regard to "human easements".

Wehner and Mischnick are the pre-destined men for talks of this kind.

Wolfgang Fechner

(Neue Hannoversche, 1 June 1973)

Junge Union in Herford, jaded and lifeless

Just a week before the CDU party-political conference in Bonn the party's youth group, *Junge Union* held its conference in Herford and had a chance to patch up the battered and depressed state of the party. But those who believed that the CDU youth would rise in revolt against fateful developments in the CDU/CSU were in for a disappointment.

The "party motor" as the Junge Union likes to call itself had for years far less driven the CDU/CSU than taken care of the forward motion of the careers of its own members.

Four years ago in Hamm this motor was at last tuned up for the benefit of the organisation and at its meeting last year in Fulda it made a healthy sound, but this year in Herford it rather spluttered and mis-fired.

The election defeat last year and its fateful consequences have paralysed the CDU and CSU youth movement. Their reforming zeal which is supposed to make up for any lack of theory in the party and answer the crucial demands of the young generation is at present lacklustre and neither the appearance of the man on his way out, Rainer Barzel, nor the man of the future, the cautious tactician Helmut Kohl, was able to fire the delegates.

It was more as a sense of duty than out of conviction that they wrote the next chapter of their basic programme, which at its hour of birth promised to be the herald of a phenomenal change in this party group, emphasising new aspects but now seeming to be stale and lifeless.

The continuation of this programme is in fact nothing more than editorial amendments. If ever the Junge Union programme is published in such a lame and moribund manner as its further development was presented in Herford its effect on the young generation cannot be rated too high.

After all a programme needs a champion to enthuse about it. When compared with young Socialists and Democrats the Junge Union, although with greater intellectual motivations behind it, still appears senile. However, when compared with itself on previous occasions it does seem to be a transformed organisation proud of its image — its main need today is a positive infusion of new life.



Jürgen Echternach (Photo: Conti-Press)

But where is this to come from? From Jürgen Echternach, who is resigning in six months' time and is obviously already resigned to it? From the four men who will bid to become his successor at the end of the year, none of whom promises to be a captivating leader? From the party which is too tied up in its own affairs? From grass-roots which have been devastated by the weaknesses of the Opposition?

There seemed to be no self-consciousness about the delegates' once again watering down their demands of the CDU and CSU to become a more unified, reforming popular party with a stronger programme by striking out the word "unified" out of deference to their Bavarian colleagues. Previously in his speech Echternach had expunged a formulation to this effect when pressurised by his CSU colleague von Stauffenberg.

It was almost like a revolt against its previous lethargy when the conference in Herford managed virtually at the last minute to pass its own scheme for worker participation.

Their suggestion largely corresponds with the ideas put forward by the social services committees and symbolises the fact that the Junge Union and Hans Katzer's men whose relationship was often troubled in the past are today side by side in the CDU as dynamic reformers.

Even this last minute positive decision

Continued on page 5

■ CHURCH AFFAIRS

Evangelical Church meets in Coburg

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Delegates at the first session of the latest Evangelical Church (EKD) synod in Coburg bade farewell to the past and embarked on a new course. Reminiscence once again played a major role as the synod said goodbye to a number of veterans who put their stamp on the Evangelical Church over the past twenty years or more.

In his farewell speech as head of the EKD Professor Kaiser said that, as in the political sphere, these were years of reconstruction. The men with responsibility still bore the scars of religious persecution suffered during the Nazi era.

The events of the twelve years of Nazi rule have exerted their influence on the synods right up to the present day. Though memories of the togetherness of that era sometimes tend towards sentimentality, the ties between individuals were often strong. But the new synod, like the new council, consists mainly of men and women who did not bear any responsibility until after 1945.

The synod in Coburg marked the end of an era. The legacy of the post-war years was also accepted. Past synods had often been stretched to the limits of their endurance when the EKD represented both the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic.

When the fourth synod met at the same time though in different places for its constitutive assembly in 1967, the delegates were unanimous in their already unrealistic desire to preserve unity, even in the face of State pressure.

Allied to their personal conviction was the public demand that at least the Church must maintain what had long been abandoned in the political sector. But political reality proved stronger and the latest synod was the first that did not have to bear the strain imposed by this desire.

Discussions at Coburg indicated that the synod as well as the council it elects wish to take advantage of the split forced upon them by making a new start. Perhaps the major surprise at the meeting was the unanimity with which both the council and synod agreed to discuss priorities.

In years gone by Church bodies reacted to social problems by publishing an overwhelming number of declarations and memoranda. Endless political discussions occasionally aroused suspicions that broad sections of the Church saw themselves as the fifth column of a political party. At times the speed with which opinions were published was more impressive than their content.

The discussion about the relationship between Church and State will have to be continued but there are already grounds for supposing that the synod plans to change course. Herr von Heyl, the new head, met with no opposition when he claimed that the Church must give priority to preaching and not social policy. This view also stands at the centre of the programme which the new members of the council plan to concentrate in their future work.

Bishop Dietzfelbinger complained in his last speech as council chairman that the word certainty had gradually fallen out of favour within the Church. "Has anything occurred in EKD work to make the members of the community, vicars and theological teachers more certain of their cause," he asked.

Both the synod and council have in recent years succumbed to the temptation of swimming with the tide and neglected the problems affecting the community and individual. Activity is not necessarily evidence of security. The fact that people are leaving the Church to preserve their faith is evidently beginning to unsettle Church heads.

It appears that Church heads will be more concerned with achieving results in future. More value will be attached to efficiency than effect. The new council deserves a good deal of confidence if this is the case. As different as its members may be as individuals, they are all prepared to sacrifice both their time and energy to see that the Church once again gives priority to its main duty.

From this point of view too Professor Kaiser did well to encourage the synod not to lose heart when it was attacked as a "parliament of dignitaries". It is not important for synods to resemble State parliaments in their composition or for a certain number of professors to be counterbalanced by an adequate number of workers.

The EKD synod must only by judged according to whether it can fulfil its specifically ecclesiastical function of contributing to the opinion-forming process in the Church. But the new synod does seem to be more balanced in its composition than its predecessors.

Ludwig Harms

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 4 June 1973)



Helmut Class (Photo:

Helmut Class elected council head

Helmut Class, the Bishop of Württemberg, is to succeed Munich Bishop Hermann Dietzfelbinger as head of the Evangelical Church Council. He received 95 of the 127 votes cast at the recent synod in Coburg to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority.

Holmut Hild, the 52-year-old head of the Hesse-Nassau Church, was elected deputy chairman, receiving 92 of the 119 votes cast. Hild is considered to belong to the progressive wing of the EKD. He comes from Weinbach and has headed the Hesse-Nassau Church since 1969.

Bishop Class comes from Pietist stock and is looked upon as a man of the conservative centre. After studying in Bethel, Marburg and Tübingen, he became a curate and, in 1939, vicar of St Kilians in Heilbronn.

He was then appointed head of a religious organisation in Herrenberg, a post he held until he became prelate of Stuttgart in 1967. He succeeded Dr. E. Eichele as Bishop of Württemberg October 1969.

In view of the clashes between P... and progressives in his own Church, C... has always stressed the need of ... respect for tradition while at the s... time courageously striding towards ... future.

Class, who has belonged to ... Diaconic Conference since 1965 ... became its head in 1971, underli... Church's obligation to help other... was one of the participants of ... Bangkok conference which promp... lively debate of the basic issues of ... Christian mission.

The synod also called for an end ... test of conscience conducted ... conscientious objectors were re... as bona fide.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 June

A report compiled by the Evangelical Church's welfare committee and published by the EKD council calls upon politicians and people in general to support higher taxes so that community services can be expanded.

Welfare committee calls for higher taxes for welfare projects

The social security system can only be developed further if the rate of growth in private consumption increases more slowly than that of the social product, the report claims. Demands for high incomes and shorter working weeks must not jeopardise the expansion of benefits that are indispensable to social justice and general wellbeing.

The report, *Social Security in an Industrial Society*, is based on the fact that many people today live in hardship despite the general rise in the standard of living. It points out for example that there are too few places in old people's and nursing homes and that the elderly often find the new homes too expensive.

Social security is still inadequate for wives who do not go out to work, the report states. Men and women are supposed to be equal in a society dependent on the devesion of labour. It is therefore incongruous in the long run that the non-working wives have to depend on their husbands' social security payments.

Pensioners should share in the general rise in incomes and be protected against inflation, the report demands. "It is only fair that their old-age pension should keep pace with the growth of active workers' incomes," it states.

Pensions should always be based on the average wage of the previous year. Because of the shorter interval (two years instead of four) the higher nomin... could no longer have such a ... effect on the relative posit... pensioners.

Health is discussed at lengt... report. Nobody can be prevent... harming himself and conseque... community as a whole by l... unhealthy life, the report sta... those people who demand th... perpetrators of pollution sho... responsible for its effects mus... consider whether smokers and d... should be asked to pay higher ta... their unhealthy consumption.

The shortage of doctors in rural ... could be counteracted, the r... suggests, by preventing general p... tioners from settling in any area ... more than a certain proporti... doctors.

The authors of the report fe... group practices, diagnostic centre... other joint schemes are neces... medical care is to be improved a... individual doctor's burden eased.

The report describes as ... indefensible a ruling whereby pa... handicapped children receive ... benefit for them after they reach th... of maturity only in those cases ... income does not exceed the ... specified in the welfare laws.

It also calls for an end to the ... ruling that children are legally oblig... maintain their parents if the need ... This obligation prevents many ... persons from drawing social b... despite their obvious hardship.

The authors of the report stres... society's increasing support for ... security could result in the ind... forgetting his social obligations an... to fend for himself. Education ... therefore pay due attention to ... obligations.

Reiner Dederi...

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 May ...

Two top churchmen, Cardinal Volk of Mainz and Bishop Kempf of Limburg, have for the first time published exact statistics on the shortage of new blood in the priesthood.

Church publishes figures on priest shortage

If the current trend continues, the number of ordinations in the early eighties will have shrunk to one tenth the 1962 figure. Statistics for the whole of the Federal Republic were published at the International Congress of Communication at Eberbach.

As many as 777 students entered priests' seminaries in 1962. The figure dropped to 314 by 1972 and it could be as low as 130 in 1980. But even these figures appear more optimistic than they really are – only 25 per cent of these beginners are ordained after finishing their studies.

Almost seven hundred ordinations took place in 1962, only 204 in 1972 and the Church estimates that only 65 priests will be ordained in 1985. The average age of the priesthood has been increasing for years. If the current trend continues some churches could find themselves without priests in the near future.

It is interesting to learn that the number of persons studying Catholic theology has increased. But lay theologists (including women, academics and future teachers of religious instruction) already outnumber by far those students who wish to enter the priesthood.

The priesthood seems to have lost its attractions because of celibacy and the disproportionate ratio between the increasing number of duties and decreasing number of priests. The claim that the mental and intellectual standards of young priests are declining was vigorously opposed.

The Church is trying to fill the gaps caused by the priest shortage by training and employing social workers of various categories. More members of religious orders are also tending to fill the vacancies. So far the only large parishes in the dioceses of Mainz and Limburg without priests are to be found in rural areas.

Joachim Neander

(Die Welt, 1 June 1973)

■ LABOUR

Opladen scheme to integrate foreign workers

A prototype integration programme backed by the government and the Arts and Science Foundation has started in the Rhineland town of Opladen. Thirty-one children of foreign workers are included in the scheme.

For the first time a medium-sized town in the Federal Republic – Opladen has a population of fifty thousand – has decided to act as a pioneer for other communities which have so far been unable to arrange any welfare schemes for foreign workers.

Opladen set the first part of the scheme in operation by reserving eight per cent of its much sought after kindergarten places for the children of foreign workers. Eight per cent of the population are foreigners. Private and Church-run kindergartens plan to follow this example.

The 31 children selected are only the first batch of a total of 5.32. "Many foreign families are reluctant to send their children along for a number of reasons," comments Claus-Dieter Härchen, a town councillor and the driving force behind the scheme.

His colleagues are having to advertise for staff of take care of the children when doing their homework in the afternoons or taking part in play-groups with local children. A school bus, an occasional note pad and other small presents are also required for the initial phase of the scheme.

Härchen believes that the children of foreign workers will one day represent a serious problem to our society. In North Rhine-Westphalia two in three of them are forced to repeat a schoolyear as a result of linguistic difficulties. This continues until they have reached school-leaving age. Only one in ten of foreign children attend vocational college, one in two do not go to school at all.

Opladen's population figures include an above-average proportion of foreigners – and the figure will increase because of the labour needs of local industry. More and more foreign workers are staying longer. One in nine have been in Opladen ten years or more, twice that number at least five years. "But few of them speak German well enough to achieve social equality," Härchen comments.

The most expensive part of the Opladen scheme is the introduction of language courses at the vocational college. Language and technical courses are also being arranged for those foreign children who do not attend vocational college and could open up the way for them to become skilled workers.

Subsidies of 1,500 Marks towards the costs of the ten-month courses have been granted by the Federal Bureau of Labour in the hope that a better knowledge of German will result in fewer industrial accidents. For psychological reasons normal rate of twenty per cent of costs. The adult education centre in Opladen

The adult education centre in Opladen has achieved above-average success with its language courses for older foreign workers. Härchen would like to use the three language laboratories at the town's schools for this purpose as well as for the individual tuition of foreign children in secondary schools.

The town of Opladen was surprised to hear that its integration scheme had been recognised as a "Federal prototype". "I only wanted to ask the Science Ministry if they had any specialists who could take part in our scheme," Härchen reports.

Neuss College of Education and the Vocational College for Social Work in Düsseldorf are now studying the further development of the Opladen scheme alongside the International Association for Social Work in Cologne.

"The Ministry has been waiting for someone to come along with sensible plans," Hans Henning Pistor of the Arts and Science Foundation comments. His organisation will, at Bonn's request, help the scheme get off the ground by investing ninety thousand Marks in it over the next two years. The government subsidy totals fifty thousand Marks a year.

As the Arts and Science Foundation is forbidden by its statutes to finance schemes of this type, it contacted an independent foundation run by an industrialist who wishes to remain anonymous.

"Our scheme could be used by any other town of the same size," Härchen says in order to explain the reason for so much outside finance. "Our town is prepared to meet all the costs involved but we could never have started up everything at once without the outside subsidies."

A foreign-language brochure will soon be issued pointing out the training and career opportunities for foreign workers and their children within the town.

The public relations department in the town hall has been expanded to include a number of foreign advisers. The municipal administration has also formed a committee of representatives elected by foreign workers at the town's various firms.

Civil servants in Opladen believe that this policy has spared them the difficulties of other "foreign worker parliaments" where the political problems of the homeland normally play a dominant role. But Opladen too plans to pursue the idea of a foreign workers parliament.

A memorandum dealing with the scheme states however that if complete integration is planned, the foreign workers must be granted the right to vote at local elections, a proposal recently put forward in the Belgian parliament.

Peter Weigert

(Die Welt, 26 May 1973)

Junge Union

Continued from page 3

on a specific topical problem was only passed by a close shave.

As if deserted by all the good spirits delegates wasted many precious hours at their congress on a daft discussion as to whom they should send as their representative to the CDU national committee.

Like the party the Junge Union relegated matter-of-fact debate to second place. In heated and long-winded discussions the delegates fiddle-faddled with mainly unimportant problems. The Junge Union we saw in Herford was only able to exude verve and self-confidence in very few phases. It was an atrophied version of its old self and – complete with personnel quarrels – a true reflection of the parent party.

Lothar Labusch

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 June 1973)

Total of foreign workers must be reduced

Economists and economic organisations state in rare unanimity that the employment of foreign workers in the Federal Republic has reached its limits. The Federal Republic is not an ideal country for immigration. It does not possess the same broad expanses of uninhabited and uncultivated land as nineteenth-century America.

Foreign workers settle in densely-populated industrial regions which are already bursting at the seams in every respect. Social infrastructure can no longer keep pace with population growth. As a result conditions, especially housing conditions, are unfit for humans – to the disgrace of the host country and the discomfort of our guests.

This newspaper has never made a fetish of growth but has always given priority to stability. This also applies to the stability of the social order which is hardly able to withstand the constant pressures of immigration.

The flood of foreign workers must be checked. We shall have to accept the slower growth rate of national production that will result. Economic growth is not an end in itself but must always be seen in conjunction with all aspects of life.

The number of German workers has been dropping steadily since 1967 as a result of the unbalanced population pyramid and the longer periods spent on education and training. Foreign workers plug this gap.

By the end of 1977 the number of German workers will level off and increase by some one and a half million by 1985 or thereabouts as a result of the high birth rate in the fifties and early sixties. From the purely statistical point of view, no further intake of foreign workers would be necessary.

But demand will continue to grow. Labour potential will be reduced by the introduction of shorter working hours, more holidays (including paid leave to attend training schemes), earlier retirement, the increase in the amount of time spent on education and training, the increasing incidence of disability and the drop in the birth rate (though this trend is rather uncertain at present).

A number of factors counteract this growth in demand, including labour-saving investment policy, especially in the increasingly important service industry sector, though this has its limits.

There are also hopes that the larger firms in this country will open branches abroad where labour is available. But opportunities are restricted here too. Running a factory depends on the availability of all types of specialists before unskilled workers can be employed. Few Germans seem prepared to go abroad in this capacity.

One of the major drawbacks of all structural policy is expressed in the proverb: "Birds of a feather flock together". Unskilled workers can only obtain work in places where there is already industry.

That is why foreign workers come in droves to the conurbations, only increasing population density. While foreigners supply only a negligible proportion of the rural population, they make up over twenty per cent of the labour force in Stuttgart, Ludwigsburg and Frankfurt.

The number of foreigners working in the Federal Republic has more than doubled in the past four years to reach a total of some 2.4 million. Including dependents, this means that some four million foreigners are living in this country.

If the current trend continues and the number of foreign workers doubles again in the next four years, there will be some eight million foreigners here in 1977.

Statistics of this magnitude are no illusion, especially where the Turks are concerned. Turkey today supplies the largest national contingent and if there is no change in the current situation we could be faced by an alarmingly high immigration rate. Millions of Turks are said to be waiting for an entry permit.

What can be done to stop the flood of foreign workers? It must first of all be pointed out that workers from countries belonging to the Common Market have the right to work wherever they wish within the Community.

Problems are posed by the influx from non-European countries. Illegal immigration must be stopped at all costs. Anyone coming to the country without a work permit must immediately be sent home.

We could also take a leaf out of Switzerland's book – at least as far as methods are concerned – and set a maximum level for the employment of foreign workers. Distribution in the form of contingents would then be the responsibility of the authorities.

The government could also sponsor the rotation method and issue work permits for a restricted period of time. But this step would certainly result in cases of hardship and deporting people is never a pleasant duty.

The only remaining solution – as far as administrative measures are concerned – is to adapt policy to local conditions. Concerns would only be allowed to employ foreign workers when the social infrastructure as able to take them. This applies in particular to suitable housing and other social amenities.

Labour exchanges would then have to adopt the principle that foreign workers could only be employed when suitable living conditions were guaranteed. Due attention would thus be paid to local conditions – and the humanitarian aspect.

Something must also be done to scale down the present situation of overemployment so that we are in a state of full employment with a decreasing number of vacancies and a corresponding drop in the demand for foreign labour.

Jürgen Eick

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 May 1973)

The Trades Union Confederation (DGB) has published a long list of demands designed to guarantee that the children of foreign workers in the Federal Republic will receive adequate schooling.

DGB demands equality for foreign workers

Franz Woschech, a member of the DGB executive, told the press that his organisation's demands were based on the belief that the principle of equal educational opportunities applied to all children – even the children of foreign workers. Educational planners must always take account of the number of foreign children who attend schools in the Federal Republic.

Only a small proportion of the estimated six hundred thousand foreign children in this country go to school, Woschech claimed. A negligible number receive appropriate career training.

Neglect, the shortage of adequate educational opportunities and non-enforcement of compulsory school attendance regulations had already led to a scandalous revival of child labour, he claimed. Surveys conducted in Frankfurt and Munich confirmed this.

Apart from a considerable tightening up of penalties for profit-oriented manufacturers, the DGB believes that the only way to put a stop to the present unsatisfactory state of affairs is to organise special classes for young foreign children in elementary schools and intensive courses at vocational colleges.

Woschech called on the government not to allow consular or national schools run independently by representatives from the foreign worker's homeland. Schools of this type only encouraged the formation of ghettos and the isolation of foreign children from other of their own age, he claimed.

Hartwig Suhrbier

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 June 1973)

■ BUSINESS

Economic Affairs Minister says State should not meddle in industry

The question of the influence of economic affairs policies on industry touches directly on the basics of what is self-evident in the order of our society. This question has become more pressing as a result of the discussions on the make-up and justification of our free market economy than it was a few years ago – and at that time it was probably easier to answer the question.

But in the light of the debate at present going on about the free enterprise economy I would like to state with all clarity required that the influence of economic policymakers on industry cannot and must not mean that the State or a ministry try to take a direct governing part in industry, on sales, on productivity or the investment programme.

Aside from all considerations of the policies governing our social order this would only end in great inefficiency. We would all have to pay for the damage done.

For this reason I shall not attempt to shake the principles of private initiative, private risk and private responsibility. The State and economic policymakers have no business meddling in company decisions. There are clear boundaries that must not be transgressed.

This does not mean that there is to be no State influence with a decisive effect on industry. But this influence is to be first and foremost the fixing of a framework for industry and the setting of economic policy data by which basically all branches of the economy and all sectors of industry will be affected equally.

The stabilisation programme of 9 May this year is a particularly pertinent example of this: It will be generally more difficult for companies to make capital investments and the levying of a stabilisation surcharge for incomes above a certain level is another factor that shows the massive influence economic policies can have on industry (but not just on industry), but neither of these two measures involves specifically holding the reins of industry or making a direct inroad into business affairs.

Every member of the group at which these measures are aimed without exception is affected. This is not industrial policy, but an exercise of overall influence on the conditions under which businessmen – among others – must operate.

But nonetheless this influencing of industry and the economy and the State's efforts to create greater stabilisation which are tied in with it have a sound basis in the free market economic setup and remain the decisive element of every influence on industry.

Yet the influence exercised by economic policies is not thus exhausted. Here I can only enumerate some other spheres in which the State exercises a tangible influence on industry.

In taxation and property policies, in the debates that are being carried out on the subject of worker participation in management, in the efforts to protect the environment and last but not least in government policies affecting monopolies and competitiveness we see new tasks that now face the government.

Methods of carrying out these duties decide not only working conditions in industry in the future, they also determine first and foremost the expansion, future development and thereby the future state of our free enterprise system.

In this respect as well politicians only determine frameworks and data, which may exercise different effects in different branches of the economy and industry, but which basically affect all in the same manner and without exemptions.

But economic policies directed against industry cannot rest their case there. Today the State demands – and in my opinion quite rightly – that the future should be thought of and taken care of. This applies particularly to the State's political activities with regard to industry.

Even a liberal politician and the most confirmed champion of free enterprise must accept the fact that the principles of the market and competitiveness are not always sufficient in themselves to guarantee supply, technical progress and international competitiveness in an environment that is being determined more and more by dirigism, an awareness of national prestige and of national power than by the free play of market forces.

Universal controls will not solve the problem of energy supply. Industrial and economic policies alone will not ensure the competitiveness of our shipyards and aircraft industry. In these and other spheres of industry economic policies must act directly but not be allowed to degenerate into dirigism. They can and must operate with State aid in order to achieve economic policy aims.

Whether this is to be carried out by direct assistance, fiscal reliefs, p… research programmes and government orders, by any combination of the f… with or without other means is somet… that must be decided in each indivi… case. According to the social order i… essential to exercise influence in c… directions on production and techno… in industry, while leaving bus… decisions in the hands of those w… should make them – businessmen.

To explain this by an exaggera… example: economic policymakers ca… stand idly by and watch an industry … to capture an export market in 1973 … products dating from 1936 or 2000 … They must take an interest in exper… industries and ensure that "intelli… product" form a satisfactory part of … range of products on offer. They ca… force companies to market reason… products but they should at least sup… them in any attempt to do so. Otherw… industry will not be able to survive … world-wide changes in structure wi… overall economic losses caused … friction. Preparing this desirable ch… structure and helping it on its way … of the main tasks of State eco… policies.

It is clear that such an influen… industry in the age of mergers a… formation of multi-national comp… has not become simpler. But f… economic policymaker this is not g… for discouragement. Gigantic ind… organisations are a cause for conc… policymakers and mean that they … make their decisions earlier. They … use every power at their disposal to … greater competitiveness on a nation… international basis.

Economic policies must produce … aired influences on one or other br… the whole economic setup. This m… carried out less by ad hoc decisio… as part of a general concept fitting … overall plan. Economic policies se… prepare this concept. We are working…

Hans Fridcr…

(Deutsche Zeitung, 25 Ma…

Building up trade with Russia is a slow business

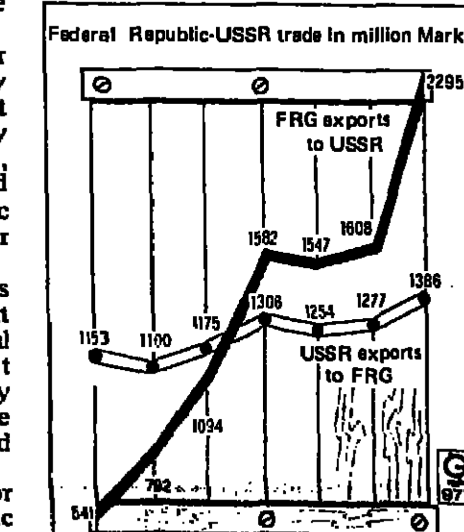
Chancellor Brandt gave a reminder in the Bundestag on 23 May of a basic fact of our economic setup. He said that those companies that were interested in operating with Soviet sources must carry out the negotiations accepting all the responsibility themselves.

The government could, he hinted, offer a certain amount of limited aid. Thereby Willy Brandt brought Federal-Soviet economic relations back to the territory on which they belong for the most part, the private sphere. Points of view had shifted somewhat recently after economic projects became a favourite theme for both sides.

Building up trade and economic ties with another country is something that cannot be easily contrived in the Federal Republic. Without doubt our Soviet partners have come to learn this recently in the contacts they have formed with the economy of the Federal Republic and other Western industrial nations.

Without doubt there is a major imbalance when the Federal Republic carries out only one per cent of its foreign trade with a country as economically powerful as the Soviet Union. This false state of affairs, however, has nothing to do with a lack of common interests. It results far more from the initially ill-starred attempt to find points of overlapping in two completely different economic systems.

Perhaps some thought could be given to the nature of these economic relations as they would be if the systems were the same. This can of course only be a kind of academic exercise from which we should avoid trying to deduce too much. But supposing the Soviet Union had a free economy – probably production and supply would be quite different. Probably more consumer goods would be manufactured, consumer goods of interest to a



country such as the Federal Republic. Trade would be more diverse and fuller.

The monotonous nature of the goods on offer has always been one of the bugbears of Federal-Soviet trade. If there were greater variety trade would expand more rapidly. The German-Russian trade graph would show that steep upward curve that marks the trade graph for normal highly developed industrial nations.

The example can be develop further. In a privately organised national economy with the strength of the Soviet Union's this country would invest heavily. Thus money from our industry would flood into that of the other country. Shareholdings would be built up and our capital would make profits in the other country.

Everyone knows that this kind of investment is not possible in a strongly communist economy. Thus the two sides are forced to branch off into special arrangements such as cooperation, which can take many different forms.

For instance a manufacturer in the Federal Republic could provide equipment for a factory in the Soviet Union. This factory would then produce motors or spares, refrigerators and what-have-you for the domestic market and for export to this country and other Western nations. The difficulty of this system is that massive loans have to be provided to get the scheme going in many cases and that when the goods have been produced there has to be a sales outlet for them on Western markets. Since a delay is inevitable and the Western market is very fluid it is possible that the communist-produced goods will no longer find takers.

Finally there are the mineral treasures that Leonid Brezhnev speaks of so enthusiastically, saying that West and East could cooperate in exploiting them. Once again investments and shareholdings in the normal sense are out of the question.

It is not possible for the Western firms that have an interest to acquire property in Siberia. They have to sign contracts by which they are promised supplies of raw materials at a later date when they have been mined. Every firm that thinks of embarking on such a contract will work out carefully well in advance if it is likely to be paid for its investment!

These are just a few of the diff… that Germans and Russians fac… hammering out problems of … economic relationship. But to p… these problems is not to say that … overwhelming and the whole idea … be dropped. Objective obstacles are … way and they indicate that the gro… trade will be by small and modest … rather than giant strides forward.

We can predict with some cert… that healthy progress will be … Brezhnev appears to have won over … the Central Committee and then … whole party to the opening up of … economy to the West. It will not be … easy to waver from this line.

From the economic point of view … is the most important outcome of … Brezhnev visit to Bonn. The Soviet … is now putting its money clearly … unequivocally on aid from the We… strengthen its economy. Brezhnev … no effort to make this clear to … negotiating partners in Bonn.

And Federal Republic and … interest in this possibility is solid. … comes to the exchange of … knowledge, patents and the like, … some firms are already engaged in … Soviet Union is far from being just a … – it has offers to make as well.

And as far as consumer goods … concerned – there is a consider… potential for the future in practically … spheres. The right norms for cooper… must, however, still be developed.

There is one fear in this respect … must be allayed, namely that the Fe… Republic will become excessively … dent on the Russians. At the mome… volume of trade is far too low fo… danger to materialise, and so it … remain for the foreseeable future.

Heinz Murm…

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 May 1…

■ INDUSTRY

Neue Heimat – the rise of a building giant

Hannoversche Allgemeine

For ten years Albert Vietor, 51, operated in the shadow of major industrial bosses, although he himself was one of them. Now the head of the trade unions' building empire Neue Heimat has had the spotlight of public interest thrown on him.

An economics magazine printed a picture of the villa in Ticino belonging to the manager of Neue Heimat, a member of the SPD, alongside an ironic SPD election poster. The text of the poster: "German workers! The SPD wants to confiscate your villas in Ticino!"

An illustrated magazine revelled in covering a New Year's Eve party for 150 journalists and their wives at the newly built Hamburg Plaza Hotel. Stars such as the Kessler Twins, Katja Ebstein and Peter Frankenfeld has been signed up for their normal fees. The bill was 200,000 Marks – and Neue Heimat picked up the tab.

Albert Vietor thinks that unjust accusations have been levelled against him. He says that his neighbour in Italian Switzerland, the former head of the printing works Gruner + Jahr and shareholder in *Der Spiegel* Richard Gruner paid many times over for his villa what Vietor paid for his. And that party – that was designed as publicity for Neue Heimat's new hotel.

Nonetheless, with people in this country becoming more property minded the Hamburg building empire must expect to be subjected to greater criticism than in the past.

This new trend has already been underlined by two incidents. In Hanover in mid-April students, young trainees and schoolchildren took over several villas. The houses belong to Neue Heimat. The demonstrators hung banners from the windows stating: "Here is living space that is not used and which is to be destroyed."

Two days later young people in Hohenfelde, a district of Hamburg, squatted in an empty house and voiced their protest against "callous speculators". They expressed their feelings with chair-legs and iron bars. The house that was due for demolition belongs the Bewobau, a subsidiary of Neue Heimat.

These incidents surrounding the "comrades' concern" help liven up interest in a company that enjoyed an immense rise after the Second World War. No fewer than 1,500,000 people in this country live in flats that were built by Vietor's Neue Heimat.

Incensed by the recent reports on the power of this trade-union run company Herbert Köhler (CDU) demanded in the Bundestag that the government should release information about monopolies being formed in the building trade in this country.

And more than a few trade unionists are watching with concern the discussions on the market position held by Neue Heimat.

One particularly vociferous critic is Walter Hesselbach, the head of the Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft (BfG), which is also … by the trades unions. He would like … polish up the image of this giant company by having it involved to a far greater extent in building for social welfare. Hesselbach means by this a greater participation in the construction … subsidised housing.

Neue Heimat has more than fifty subsidiaries and issues orders to more than 4,000 buildings companies. Last year Albert Vietor announced turnover of …00 million Marks. This year the figure should be over five milliard

This giant of the Federal Republic building trade has long since ceased to build exclusively bargain dwellings for trades union members. It is active of the so-called free housing market, and its policies are very similar to those of private building firms.

Apart from the 400,000 flats it has built Neue Heimat has been responsible for the construction of hospitals, schools and town halls, and in addition other buildings that could be called prestige works. These include the Olympic press centre in Munich, the Olympic sailing centre in Kiel and the Düsseldorf Hilton.

When it has come to the construction of some ambitious building Vietor never considered any country too far away. He built 288 houses in the Ghanaian capital of Accra and new estates in Kenya and Ceylon. Architectural designs drawn up in Hamburg have led to the building of houses in Venezuela, holiday flats in Saint Maxime and two giant blocks in Montreal with 356 apartments in all.

In Monte Carlo he undertook to build a congress centre with conference and banqueting rooms, bars, shops and even a casino.

The head of Neue Heimat is a self-made man of the purest kind. He is the son of a grocer. He studied salesmanship and entered a wholesale firm.

War intervened and he donned battledress. In the infantry he was wounded five times and ended up as a prisoner-of-war of the Russians. He, pretended to be Dutch so that the Russians would release him the sooner.

His career with Neue Heimat began at the end of 1945 in Kassel. He was at first a minor clerk. One man quickly recognised Vietor's talents with finances.

It is to this man, Heinrich Plett, that Vietor practically owes his career. Plett was the first Chairman of the Neue Heimat Board. He took Vietor on as his assistant at the Hamburg HQ. When Plett died of a heart attack in 1963 it went without saying that Albert Vietor would step into his shoes.

Plett and Vietor were both always outstanding managers rather than idealists. Plett occasionally revealed to intimate friends that at the end of the War it was his greatest wish to build flats, something that he could only achieve by working with the unions who had adequate funds at their disposal.

Neue Heimat came into existence in the twenties and was taken over by the Nazis in 1933, when it was called the Deutsche Arbeitsfront. At the end of the War the Allies gradually handed it back to the trades unions.

The success of the firm is first and foremost due to its policy of expansion. Vietor never let his role as a trades union businessman prevent him from running the company on private enterprise lines. In order to remain cheaper than his competitors Vietor has always had to outdo them as regards size and rationalisation.

By the mid-sixties he was building with 45 per cent prefabricated parts. As Neue Heimat grew it was possible for Vietor to take advantage of another factor. Builders who cooperate with Neue Heimat must undertake to use specified materials and buy them from specified suppliers.

Neue Heimat started off as a company that was to force the hand of private builders with regard to prices. Now, where prices are concerned, Neue Heimat leads the field. It is able to exercise influence over the policies of large building companies. These are only too willing to concede this point to Vietor – in return they have regular orders guaranteed for a number of years. In an industry such as building which is particularly sensitive to economic ups and downs this is important. With Neue Heimat contracts these building companies can make sure their production capacities are regularly used to an economic level.

By law the company is not allowed to make more than four-per-cent profits. This has meant that so much money is ploughed back into the company that it has been able to finance its own



Albert Vietor

(Photo: Staatliche Landesbildstelle Hamburg)

expansion and branch off into new fields.

In 1964 Vietor founded "Neue Heimat Kommunal" which is particularly concerned with rebuilding programmes in slums. In 1969 he began "Neue Heimat Städtebau" which plans rebuilding of entire metropolitan areas. The close ties between Neue Heimat and local government offices, particularly in towns and boroughs governed by the SPD have meant that Neue Heimat has inestimable advantages over private building firms.

The unchecked rise of Vietor and Neue Heimat has been largely beyond the control of "grass roots". Whereas a shareholder in a steel or electronics company can demand to meet his board of directors at least once a year at the AGM executives in Neue Heimat generally work in their own groups.

The supervisory board headed by union (DGB) boss Otto Vetter is made up largely of the chairmen of individual trades unions. They are not really in a prime position to scrutinise the diversified activities of their board chairman.

Mistaken business decisions are not likely to throw Vietor out of step. This 320,000 Mark a year man is more likely to be overwhelmed by excessive success.

Hans Otto Eglau

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 26 May 1973)

NSU – from sewing machines to motorcycles

In Neckarsulm the name Volkswagen is honoured. VW is big brother and NSU just stands for a hundred-year history of clever Swabian punctiliousness.

If NSU had still been an independent firm there would undoubtedly have been a major centenary celebration this year. But now that big brother Volkswagen holds sway in Neckarsulm and all the top names have moved on to Ingolstadt and Wolfsburg it is understandable that little fuss is being made about the hundred years of Neckarsulm tradition.

In the Audi-NSU group it is not only the name Audi that comes first – production of Audi cars is given far greater precedence. The number of Ro 80 cars that leave the production lines each day can scarcely be counted on the fingers of two hands.

So NSU's centenary was celebrated only by a small dinner in the most intimate circle of associates and a small gathering of motor-cycle racers from the days of yore in the German Two-Wheeler Museum, Neckarsulm.

Names from the golden days of NSU racing came to the fore for this one day of reminiscences: Wilhelm Herz, Böhm, Islinger, Glöckler, Fleischmann, H.P. Müller. The company's advertising department produced a beautiful, but really quite modest, brochure. Its title did not even mention the name NSU, which is not in fact as old as the company, the abbreviation appearing at a later date.

The story of NSU began with the two Swabian craftsmen Christian Schmidt and Heinrich Stoll, who were typical products of the fruitful years following the Franco-Prussian War. With their own initiative they set up shop in Riedlingen on the Danube and began to produce knitting machines.

They must have been good knitting machines, since the firm expanded and became well known. But there was little room for expansion in Riedlingen. Christian Schmidt looked for a new location where the firm could spread its wings, and in 1880 plumped for Neckarsulm. He began there with seven mechanics and two clerks.

By 1884 the firm had been turned into a joint-stock company. In 1886 it went into the transportation business – producing bicycles. Bikes were coming into vogue at this time. In 1889 the staff had increased to sixty and apart from the knitting machines about 200 bicycles were manufactured.

Thus the company gained experience in producing frames of tubular steel and wheels, and when Gottlieb Daimler produced his second car he called on the Neckarsulm factory to manufacture all chassis parts.

The trade name NSU originated in 1892 – it is the abbreviation of the rivers Neckar and Sulm. By 1899 the Neckarsulmer Fahrradwerke AG numbered 429 employees. Two years later the first German motor-bike to go into series production was made by NSU. It had a single-cylinder Zedel motor manufactured in Switzerland.

Motor-bike manufacture flourished, and it was on this basis that NSU decided on the next step, car manufacture. In 1906 the first NSU car came on the market – a four-cylinder model developing ten horsepower. It was an open-topped two-seater and cost 5,800 goldmark. The price included two oil lamps, but covering and jack were extras.

Motor-bike production was not neglected and in 1909 a two-cylinder NSU racing machine reached 124 km/h in America, a world record of the day.

In 1971 NSU again held the world record when Wilhelm Herz drove a 500 cc NSU at 290 km/h. In 1956 Herz pushed this up to 339 km/h.

In May 1964, the first ever car with a Wankel rotary engine was produced by NSU. These hundred years since the first knitting machines are more important than they have been given credit for.

(Deutsche Zeitung, 1 June 1973)

■ AVIATION

Paris air-show spotlights European trends

"A good 83 per cent of all aircraft in Europe come from the United States," Charles Gardner of the British Aircraft Corporation said. "Were we only to succeed in reducing the American share of the market to 73 per cent, work would be provided for an extra 100,000 people in Europe."

This British comment could well be taken as the motto of the thirtieth Paris aero salon at Le Bourget.

The Paris air show may not reflect the naked facts of life of international air transport, yet among the hangars, stands and exhibits there was a feeling that something new is in the offing.

European aircraft designers at Le Bourget brought ideas with them, and their American colleagues and competitors seem for better or for worse to be accepting them.

Regaining eight per cent of the home market may seem a modest target in itself, but for the European aircraft industry this extra slice of the cake represents the difference between further dependence on government subsidies and working at a profit, thus helping to ensure survival.

Manufacturers in this country, let it be added, are showing signs of fresh self-confidence, and this alone is a most promising development.

American approval was heard at the Paris show of the VFW 614 short-haul jet from Bremen. The 614's most striking characteristic is its quietness.

Flight trials at Le Bourget proved the pudding. Even as the 614 swooped down to a mere fifty metres over the spectators' heads they were able to carry on conversation normally. Aircraft noise need not be ear-splitting, as the VFW 614 amply demonstrated.

For the first time in ages an aircraft manufactured in this country has been ordered straight from the drawing-board too. It is the Dornier Do 24/72, a new version of the Do 24, the popular pre-war flying boat.

The pre-war design remains unsurpassed, says Dornier spokesman Gerhard Patt. It is merely to be modernised by being fitted out with turboprop engines rather than the propeller engines of old, and the wing design is also to be reviewed according to the latest principles.

Research and development will cost a mere eighty million Marks, Dornier reckon, and Spain is not only prepared to foot half this bill but also to place an initial advance order for thirty Do 24s.

The Do 24/72 is to be used mainly for air-sea rescue, particularly since it can land on choppy seas. Japan has also shown interest in this application. Yet the Do 24/72 could even be used as a forty-seater commercial aircraft.

Dornier have their doubts about commercial usage, though. Flying boats are more expensive to run than conventional airliners.

Ludwig Bölkow is likewise satisfied with the current trend. 172 orders and options have already been placed or taken out for the Bo 105, his multi-purpose helicopter, – "and not one of the orders is a military contract", he says with a note of pride.

Boeing have taken out a licence to manufacture the Bo 105 in the United States, and as a result the helicopter is well out of the red.

Asked why the Bo 105 has been such a success Munich aerospace boffin Bölkow simply states that it is a second-generation helicopter.

With the aid of fibreglass-toughened synthetics Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm engineers have developed new rotor blades that can be attached to an extremely simple design of head. In this respect MBB remain a step ahead of the competition.



Dornier's new Do 24/72 flying boat (Photo: Dor[nier])

Incidentally, a test pilot was called to order after performing manoeuvres that were not permitted. The helicopter had nonetheless successfully been put through its acrobatic paces.

Dornier are a little cagey about the prospects of the vertical take-off Do 31. America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration, on the other hand, freely admits that it would very much like to reactivate the project.

Negotiations in Bonn on the future of the world's only existing jet transport aircraft capable of taking off and landing on a parking-lot, as it were, are rumoured already to be in progress.

Soviet aircraft are less of a talking-point at the Paris air show, always excepting the Tu 144, which allegedly crashed in an attempt to outdo the aerial artistry of the Concorde test pilot.

The aircraft that crashed was claimed to be the finished product, but such substantial changes have been made in comparison with the previous prototype that specialists maintained that the latest Tu 144 was virtually a new model.

A number of boffins certainly have their doubts as to whether the Tu 144 that crashed can have been one of an assembly-line run. They suspect that nearly all the SST's crucial flight t[ests] must first be repeated.

This is scant consolation for [the] Concorde's sales staff, though. It l[ooks] very much as though the final dec[ision] whether or not to buy the Concorde [will] not be taken until the next Paris air [show] in 1975.

Only moderate interest was shown [...] apart from by the French themse[lves]. Concorde rumours were legion, the[...] Rockwell, the US manufacturers of the [...] supersonic bomber, are rumoured [to] have offered to cooperate with Br[itain] and France in the development [of a] super-Concorde.

Henri Ziegler, C-in-C of the French [...] of the Concorde project, will [...] nothing of this particular rumour.

There can be no doubt at the e[nd of] another Paris air show that the Eur[opean] aircraft industry is coming up with ideas thick and fast.

Now that Britain has joined [the] Common Market closer ties seem [to be] evolving between Britain and the F[ederal] Republic. France would seem to be somewhat in the lurch in connection [with] these projects and that, one is bo[und to] say, is not altogether desirable fr[om the] viewpoint of Europe as a whole.

Walter Leo[...]

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 30 M[ay ...])

Uninformed public views MRCA with suspicion

For the past four years the taxpayers' money has been invested in a military research project designed to ensure our air defence in the eighties.

The MRCA, or multi-role combat aircraft, has already cost this country alone some 700 million Marks.

And Bonn is only one of three partners with a financial stake in the project. Bonn and Whitehall are each footing 42.5 per cent of the bill, Rome the remaining fifteen per cent.

In spring 1968, when preliminary talks on the future of air defence commenced, a fair number of Nato countries showed interest, but one by one they dropped out as planning gave way to costly investment.

The last country to quit was Holland, on the ground that the MRCA could in terms of neither cost nor performance meet the basic requirements originally slated as a fighter designed to ensure air supremacy.

It took Bonn some what longer to come to terms with the realities. It could well be that the government still has its sights set on rather more than the goods are likely to deliver.

The 1970 defence white paper still specified as one of the roles of the MRCA the provision of aerial supremacy over a limited area and for a restricted period of time.

Even at that stage, though, the initial number of MRCAs required had been scaled down from 800 to an estimate of 420. The white paper did not explain why air defences could suddenly be maintained with half the number of aircraft.

In the meantime the target figure has been reduced yet again to 322 aircraft – an unusual instance of military self-restraint.

In the 1971/72 white paper the Defence Ministry went on to cut back the MRCA's performance targets. The American F 4 F Phantom jet was now to ensure air supremacy, not the MRCA. The first of a total of 175 Phantoms on order are to be delivered by the end of this year.

No one bothered to break this discouraging news to the general public, who indeed imagined that a project that was so costly must presumably be worthwhile and consequently showed no further interest.

A change did not come about until development work on another expensive arms project was brought to a surprise halt a few months ago.

The project that was shelved was the VTOL, and politicians and pressmen specialising in the defence field decided to take a closer look at the progress that had been made with the MRCA.

This proved easier said than done but the conclusion reached was that in view of the government's budgetary troubles the MRCA project was more than likely a non-starter.

As long ago as last September *Wehr und Wirtschaft*, the specialist journal, wrote that "as for prices and costing of the MRCA, the powers that be are still officially unwilling to get down to brass tacks. Yet after talks with Ministry officials a fairly detailed estimate of the costs can be made.

"By the time it is actually taken into service the MRCA may well cost thirty million Marks per unit (in 1970 a single MRCA was to cost 16.5 million Marks). Including systems and equipment the MRCA should thus cost a good fifty million Marks a time."

Despite depressing news of this kind the Defence Ministry chose to continue keeping people in the dark.

Not long ago the Defence Ministry in Whitehall announced that after the last review the three governments associated with the MRCA project had decided to give the go-ahead for preparing series production.

Bonn pressmen checked with the Defence Ministry there. The press officer responsible stated that the Bonn Defence Ministry had made a similar announcement three weeks previously.

This being the first the journalists in question had ever heard of the matter they wanted to know to whom the announcement had been made. "To anyone who went to the trouble to ask," was the laconic reply.

By early April pressure had gr[own so] strong that Luftwaffe C-in-C Günt[her ...] decided to hold a press conf[erence] including the MRCA among the ite[ms on] the agenda.

Ask what they might, the journ[alists] present were unable to do more [than] elicit the vaguest and most mean[ingless] answers. Instead of clarifying matters [the] press conference merely befogged [the] issue still further and added fuel t[o the] fires of mistrust of the MRCA project.

Even so, the Ministry is now evid[ently] more forthcoming with informati[on] with staggering results. Regardless o[f] September's comments the April iss[ue of] *Wehr und Wirtschaft* notes that:

"Cost trends in particular, de[spite] rumours to the contrary, do not [...] assumptions that basic calculations [...] have gone haywire."

Paul Gross-Talmon, the maga[zine's] editor, dealt directly with the [...] problem: "Unlike in Britain or It[aly the] MRCA has encountered precious li[ttle in] the way of public goodwill in [this] country. The general public is so [...] informed that completion of the pr[oject] will have been rendered unnec[essarily] difficult once it is a matter of mak[ing the] required allocations."

The required allocations amou[nt to] 15,000 million Marks, always as[suming] that there are no further additional costs apart from the price increa[ses that] have been costed for. But this is [...] point on which the Bonn [...] Ministry is refusing to declare its [...]

Karl Heinz Har[...]

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonnt[agsblatt, ...] 27 Ma[y ...])

■ THE ARTS

200th anniversary of Ludwig Tieck's birth


(Photo: Ullstein)

Ludwig Tieck was born 200 years ago. The stir he was to cause has long since died down — the glory in which he bathed for a good fifty years has not only faded but for the most part vanished altogether — the great exception being the Shakespeare translations for which he is still famed. And the hubbub that was always attendant on Tieck is now as still as the grave.

All of Tieck's own writings, in their day such a cause of controversy between proponents and antagonists, are now so covered in layers of dust that even students of German literature rarely reach for them from library shelves. Today's men of letters scarcely know his name.

Such a rapid fall from grace for the once famous or notorious is by no means exceptional. It is in fact quite common for those who were once the height of fickle fashion, the matadors of a certain season, whose glory fades all the more rapidly for once having been so brilliant.

But in the case of Ludwig Tieck the rapid change from being an object of lionisation to one of complete indifference is excessive. The discrepancy between his much-vaunted rise to fame, his long years of recognition and finally his total depreciation is so striking that one cannot accept it as just the normal course of events. His former fame cannot just be passed off as a whim of fashion. On the other hand the praise once lavished on this author is exaggerated, yet of great importance.

For it was not unimportant men who praised him, but famous figures of the day: August Wilhelm and Friedrich von Schlegel, Novalis, Eichendorff, Schleiermacher, Schelling, Fichte, Steffens, Gries and so on. Nor was it exclusively Tieck's contemporaries who praised him. Goethe was 25 years his senior and at the height of his world fame. He was noted for his parsimoniousness when it came to appraising younger writers. But he expressed his great thanks for the things he had learnt from Tieck.

And Heinrich Heine, who was 25 years Tieck's junior and far more inclined to hurl brickbats than compliments at other writers, said of Tieck: "He was the true son of Phoebus Apollo!" Hans Christian Andersen, the Danish author of fairytales quite simply called Tieck: "Germany's poet."

Ludwig Tieck, son of a master craftsman, was born on 31 May 1773 in Berlin. As a schoolboy he acquired the reputation of being something of a prodigy. It was not only his intellectual capabilities coupled with diligence that made him stand out, nor just his great self-confidence but also the attraction and appeal he exercised on those around him and his somewhat instinctive *savoir vivre*.

With these qualities he was able to leap the social barriers with consummate ease, something that few men could manage in the strict class system of those days.

His brilliant style led one of his high-school masters to sign him up to cooperate on the writing of novels, which he was churning out as the day-to-day entertainment fare of the late eighteenth century. And so Tieck was introduced into the literary world while still at the school desk.

He immediately mastered his new calling with all the finesse that was typical of the era. He received many contracts to write and by the time he was 25 he was able to publish a twelve-volume edition of "collected writings"!

With Heinrich Wackenroder, the Schlegel brothers and Novalis he became one of the pioneers of the Romantic movement. Soon he was considered one of the leading lights of German Romanticism.

In the three-volume *Phantasus* (1812), in which he summarises the stuff of his early writings, he produced the basic book of Romantic poetry. And he had a large share in the basic book of Romantic art, Wackenroder's *Herzensergiessungen* (Outpourings of the heart).

He concentrated on philological studies in Halle, Göttingen and Erlangen and then turned to the task of preserving and polishing up the poetic heritage — with this work he pointed the way ahead for German, Latin and English studies for decades to come.

Tieck married young, but for a long time he led an unstable and roving life. He only gave up his wandering when severe rheumatism forced him to do so. He went to Dresden and in the 22 years he stayed there he made the Saxon capital a focal point of creative art.

In 1841 he was called to Berlin by King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. He withdrew more and more from public life but remained tirelessly active and in his late novellas and novels he prepared the way for German Realism.

In his nearly eighty years of life he was heaped with honours and titles and died on 28 April 1853. The king attended his funeral.

Friedrich Hebbel looked back on Tieck as the "King of the Romantic movement". Others (despite the claims of Schiller, Jean Paul and Kleist) thought of him as the highest pinnacle of German writing apart from Goethe.

John Halding

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 24 May 1973)

Schmidt-Isserstedt dies in Hamburg

Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt, the internationally famous Berlin-born conductor has died in Hamburg at the age of 73.

Until 1971 Dr Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt was the chief conductor of the Norddeutscher Rundfunk Symphony Orchestra and has since worked with the Orchestra in an honorary capacity.

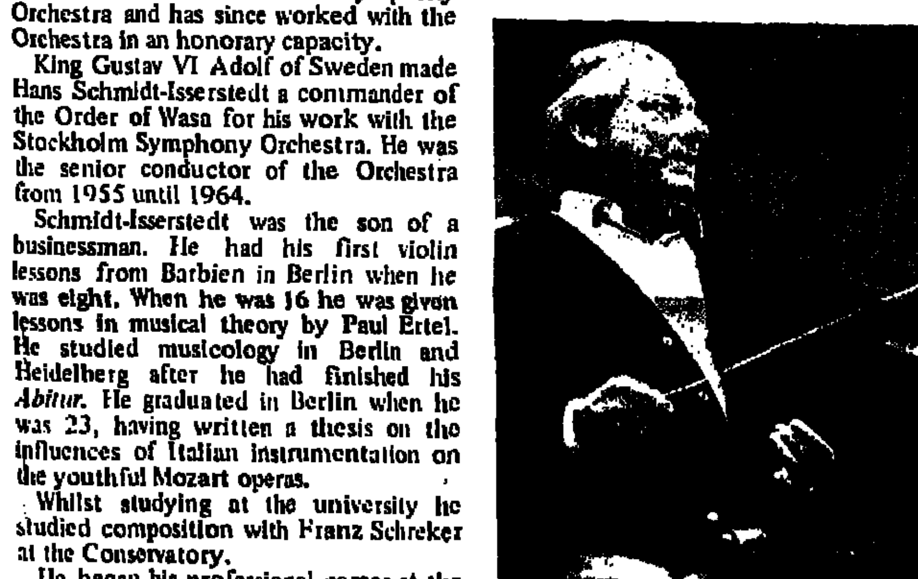
King Gustav VI Adolf of Sweden made Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt a commander of the Order of Wasa for his work with the Stockholm Symphony Orchestra. He was the senior conductor of the Orchestra from 1955 until 1964.

Schmidt-Isserstedt was the son of a businessman. He had his first violin lessons from Barbien in Berlin when he was eight. When he was 16 he was given lessons in musical theory by Paul Ertel. He studied musicology in Berlin and Heidelberg after he had finished his *Abitur*. He graduated in Berlin when he was 23, having written a thesis on the influences of Italian instrumentation on the youthful Mozart operas.

Whilst studying at the university he studied composition with Franz Schreker at the Conservatory.

He began his professional career at the Barmen-Elberfeld Stadttheater in 1923 and stayed there for two years. Then he served as the leader of the orchestra in Barmen-Elberfeld until 1928 when he was called to the Stadttheater in Rostock.

After a period at Darmstadt he went to Hamburg in 1935 as first *Kapellmeister* at the Staatsoper. He became director of the Deutsches Opernhaus in Berlin in 1942 where he worked until 1945.


(Photo: NDR)

From 1945 he has worked with the Nordwest-Deutsches Radio Orchestor, which was later renamed Norddeutsches Radio Orchestra, which he had helped to establish after the War. It enjoyed great success at home and abroad under his baton.

Among the parts of the world in which Schmidt-Isserstedt gave concerts were the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Denmark, Latin America and South Africa. He has conducted most of the great orchestras in the Old and New World.

He also made a name for himself as a composer of symphonic music, lieder and chamber music as well as a three-act opera *Hassan gewinnt*. His *Symphonie Concertante* and music for Shakespeare plays have become famous.

An accurate portrait of his artistic personality was drawn by American music critic Harold C. Schonberg. He states: "Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt is a musician of the old school. He stands calmly on a rostrum and beats time with schoolmasterly precision. Like all major European conductors he was brought up in a tradition of selflessness with music taking precedence.

"In his eyes the job of conductor is to put across the composer's message and not to show off what a wonderful tailor the conductor goes to. Like most conductors of his generation he keeps gesticulations down to a minimum. A demanding audience quickly comes to the conclusion that excessive acrobatics by a conductor are all without major significance. Like the best athletes the best conductors are those who make it all seem effortless."

Gerhard Schröder, the manager of Norddeutscher Rundfunk, praised Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt as an ambassador of music in many countries in the world.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 30 May 1973)


(Photo: ...

Aachen prize for Madariaga

Salvador de Madariaga has ... awarded the 19th Charlemagne ... by the city of Aachen for his services ... Europe. The Prize, worth 5,000 M... has been awarded since 1950 for sp... services to European unity and among ... 19 recipients from ten different coun... are Konrad Adenauer, Robert Schu... and Sir Winston Churchill.

The most striking point ... Madariaga, 86, is his great diversity. I... is marked firstly by the course of hi... He was born on 23 July 1886 in Cor... north-west Spain. He studied at the P... Polytechnic.

He first studied engineering fo... years, working with a Spanish ... company and then in 1916 mo... London and took up journalism.

In 1921 he joined the secretariat o... League of Nations in Geneva, to... visiting professorship of Spanish Li... ture at Oxford University and joined ... circle of intellectuals centring ... Ortega y Gasset who helped to ... about the Republic of 1931.

In the Republic he was first ... Minister for Education and Justice ... ambassador to Washington and Pa... finally delegate at the League of Na...

At the end of the Spanish Civ... Madariaga lived mainly in Brita... travelled a great deal as a wand... preacher of liberalism. This oppone... Franco never returned to Spain, alth... he would have been welcomed and ... for some years had political ar... published in the liberal-monarc... Madrid newspaper *ABC* regularly.

Apart from being an eng... journalist, professor, minister, dip... and political orator Madariaga has be... lyricist, dramatist, novelist, essayist ... historian. His diverse talents are phi... cal as well, since he can write Sp... English and French with equal ease.

Of these many talents it is his ski... historian and journalist, essayist ... orator that make the other capa... take a back-seat.

His biographies of Columbus, Co... and Bolivar as well as his history *The R... and Fall of the Spanish World Em...* read like novels. They are well... historical knowledge, accurate ana... and original theses.

The same applies to his skill as ... essayist. With his book *Spain, Its Na... and Reality* he wrote a standard wo... which Iberophiles will always resort. ... book will still be read fifty years he...

Madariaga is always *au courant* ... political happenings, and the libera... the world tend to orbit around him ... has never tired of expressing his belie... human freedom. He has never tired ... campaigning against militarism, theocr...

Continued on page 11

■ ART WORLD

Museum directors discuss the future of museums

The place is the Alte Pinakothek in Munich, the time is the none-too-distant future. Visitors to the art gallery find everything much the same as on previous occasions. Altdorfer's *Alexanderschlacht*, Dürer's *Four Apostels* and Rubens' *Judgment Day* all hang in their accustomed places.

A comparison with the 1973 catalogue shows that nothing has changed. Yet there is a difference — the pictures on exhibition are no longer the originals but reproductions so faithful that they stand the test of scrutiny.

The old paintings have been taken down and stored in a bomb-proof and radiation-proof cellar where they can only be seen by specialists and a few privileged visitors such as foreign heads of state for a few short seconds as even dimmed lights can harm the old canvasses.

At present this vision is in the realms of science fiction but it could well materialise if galleries draw the logical conclusions from demands raised at the International ICOM Symposium, the congress of museum experts recently held in Lindau.

These specialists discussed the dangers facing works of art on exhibition — even in the carefully-regulated rooms of a museum of art gallery — and the steps that must be taken to preserve them. They suggested that some of the more delicate items should no longer be exhibited.

Old letters and mediaeval book illustrations are normally to be found in museum safes anyway, cartoons and water-colours are sensitive to light, paintings on a wooden surface threatened by any change in temperature or humidity, silver tarnishes and flakes of colour are gradually falling off Van Gogh's pictures.

What items can be put on public exhibition without risk? Or, to put it another way, if items are to be stored out of sight to protect them from damage what are they being preserved for — eternal oblivion in a museum cellar?

Conservation is doubtlessly one of the duties of a museum — and when museum directors are conservative in attitude, this can be seen as the effect of their job on their mentality — but conservation is no end in itself.

Other factors appear more important, even to the extent that it appears justifiable for museums to face minor risks. Musuems have no right to prescribe what works of art people living today can see and what items have to remain under lock and key for another two or three generations.

The museum specialists from the Federal Republic, Austria, Switzerland and a number of neighbouring countries who attended the congress in Lindau were obviously impressed by the calls for preservation.

It seems likely that museums will tend to reject requests for loans in future. But, as paradoxically as it sounds, this trend could have a beneficial effect on exhibitions. The museums have no intention of boycotting important and well-prepared exhibitions. That could mean fewer, smaller and more worthwhile exhibitions — and this is only sensible.

The congress devoted most of its attention to discussing the position of the museum in an age of technological and social change. Technological change means new forms of presentation, humanitarian aspects in technological museums and, above all, better chances of preservation.

As far as social change was concerned, discussion centred around the position of the museum in tody's society, on the duties and educational aspects of the museum and the possibilities of change.

Opinions differed on this point. Museum directors are trying to gain a new image and aim at making their museums an instrument of education. A sociologist then came along and claimed that the museum was still related to certain classes as no benefit could be derived without the knowledge specific to these groups. The congress was unwilling and unable to accept this claim.

But the two sides soon came to terms and the congress ended in the realms of Utopia. Georges Henri Rivié, a permanent adviser to ICOM, has progressed far beyond the old museum and its problems in his thoughts.

He has already focussed his attention on the new-style museum of the future — the "ecomuseum", a museum which exists not for the sake of exhibits (and museum directors) but for mankind, a museum illustrating the symbiosis of Man, Nature and History.

Helmut Schneider

(Die Zeit, 25 May 1973)

Continued from page 10

the rule of violence and suppression of mankind by playing on consciences.

He was quite unmoved when critics accused him of Utopian dreaming with his theories of a world federation, when his opponents likened him to Don Quixote and others labelled him a hysterical champion of the Cold War.

Madariaga never changed: he was always a Spaniard who felt himself to be by the same token a European and a citizen of the world.

Anton Dieterich

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 May 1973)

Deutscher Bücherbund in business for 25 years

The Deutsche Bücherbund, Stuttgart, the world's second largest book club, has just celebrated its 25th anniversary. The organisation was founded by Georg von Holtzbrinck in 1948 as the Stuttgart Hausbücherei and ten years later had seven hundred thousand members.

The concern changed its name to the Deutscher Bücherbund in 1959 and now supplies one and a quarter million members with cheap editions of well-known books. Savings of up to fifty per cent can be made.

Along with its subsidiaries Deutsche Hausbücherei, Evangelische Buchgemeinde and Deutscher Buchklub and its branches in Austria, the Netherlands, Spain and France, the Deutscher Bücherbund registers an annual turnover of over 130 million Marks.

The Deutscher Bücherbund was the first book club to offer its members a free choice between books and gramophone records and end the practice of charging membership fees. The Bücherbund runs one hundred book shops in 94 cities for its members.

The one and a quarter million members bought six million books and two and a half million records in 1972. Five hundred different books and four hundred records were available.

Forty per cent of the books sold were non-fiction, forty per cent light fiction, twelve per cent great works of literature and eight per cent books for children. As many as 56 per cent of the records sold were pop, 24 per cent other types of light music, ten per cent classical and five per cent music for children.

Two hundred new titles are added to the book club's range every year and not all of them are recent bestsellers. Readers interested in more serious literature could choose works by Joseph Conrad, Max Frisch's *Homo Faber*, Heinrich Böll's *Ansichten eines Clowns*, Peter Härtling's trilogy *Niembsch – Janek – das Familienfest* or a volume containing Rolf Hochhuth's most important plays.

Members more interested in non-fiction were offered Friedrich Hacker's report *Aggression*, A.S. Neill's study of the theory and practice on unauthoritarian education, Norman Mailer's description of the Apollo 11 moon venture as well as works of reference, cook books and language courses.

This wide range takes all the substance out of criticisms that the book club only stocks the most popular works of fiction and non-fiction. A closer look at the scope covered will also overcome any objection that the book club could influence its members politically or mainpulate them in any way.

Besides, in this fast-living age when booksellers measure the success of a book according to the speed at which it sells book clubs exert a stabilising influence on the market and continue to stock titles that have long since been withdrawn from sale by bookshops.

That is the reason why membership does not consist of second-class readers, as literary snobs claim, or of housewives, the well-off middle classes and small-time white-collar workers, as the cliche has it.

The sociological spectrum of Bücherbund members is not much different from the sociological composition of the whole of the population of a reading age. A little more than half the members are women, 37.8 per cent are under thirty, only 15.7 per cent in their forties. A total of 36,1 per cent of members are civil servants and white-collar workers, a sizeable 9.3 per cent students.

Twenty-five years of continuous and often unnoticed expansion has also brought commercial success. The Deutscher Bücherbund has become the most important part of the Georg von Holtzbrink publishing company which owns printing shops, newspaper shares and links such important publishers such as S. Fischer, Droemer/Knaur and Rowohlt with the Bücherbund and its subsidiaries at home and abroad. The group's annual turnover has now risen to four hundred million Marks.

Helmut B. Wolfer

(Handelsblatt, 18 May 1973)

Proposals to re-jig film subsidy system

An amendment to the film grants law to be discussed by the Bundestag after its summer recess could provide an important basis for improving the quality of films made in the Federal Republic.

The current film grants law is due to expire at the end of the year and the amendment, already approved by the Cabinet, would introduce extremely controversial forms of film subsidy.

The central feature of the amendment is the "project subsidy" for which five million Marks a year will be available. Film projects will be examined according to script, production team and cast-list to see whether they promise to be "good, entertaining works".

When awarding grants in future, priority will be given to films of a high standard that will appeal to a broad section of the community. The project commission, a new independent body that has still to be set up, will take the final decision on whether or not to award a grant.

The amendment proposes that grants should be issued in the forms of loans which need not be paid back in certain circumstances. Up to three hundred thousand Marks — or seven hundred thousand Marks where particularly expensive films are concerned — will be repaid by any film project living up to expectations — but only if a profit is made. Only half the profit will go towards repayments.

An additional grant of up to 250,000 Marks an be awarded on the basis of what are called "reference films". The grant is awarded for the producer's next project if the reference film receives a favourable grading from the Film Assessment Bureau in Wiesbaden.

The proposed amendment suggests setting aside a certain amount of the basic grant for graded films that do not take in a certain amount of money at the box office. This would help the law encourage quality. Not all artistically valuable films attract large audiences, as past experience has shown.

The amendment continuing the film grants law for another five years also affects television companies. Whenever the ARD or ZDF — the first and second channels — broadcast a full-length cinema film for the first time, they will be asked to pay twenty thousand Marks to the film grants organisation. This ruling would not apply to the third programme.

At present the only money available to the films grants organisation is the sum raised from the ten pfennigs charged for every cinema ticket sold and 1.6 million Marks from the film industry fund administered by the Ministry of Economic Affairs — a total of just under sixteen million Marks.

Hans-Martin Schubert

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 26 May 1973)

■ MEDICINE

Doctors discuss problems of psychiatry in Düren

Frankfurter Allgemeine

More than seven hundred doctors, psychologists, nursing sisters and social workers attended the seventh socio-psychiatric congress of the "Mannheim Circle" at Düren hospital to discuss the problems of psychiatric practice, psychiatric care and the socio-political functions of psychiatry.

Most emphasis was however placed in providing psychiatric staff of all categories with more information about therapy in both large and small groups, therapeutic methods, questions of hospital administration and post-hospital treatment for cases thought liable to suffer a relapse. The thirty working groups also included patients.

Since the first meeting in May 1970 the half-yearly congress organised by the Mannheim Circle has become the most important nationwide further training course for all professional groups concerned with psychiatry, particularly the non-medical professions that were always neglected in the past.

Congresses of this type are in great demand as the general rise in attendance indicates. The number of delegates doubled from congress to congress until it reached its peak last spring when one thousand persons attended.

But this flood of delegates to Bethel hospital near Bielefeld also prompted doubts as to the further existence of the congress – for administrative reasons. One of the most remarkable features of the congress is that it takes place without any outside assistance and without any organisating body.

The Mannheim Circle is not a club or association but a loose formation of mainly young persons planning to achieve the breakthrough of dynamic psychiatry in the Federal Republic.

At the end of every meeting the assembly entrusts a group with the preparations for the next congress – the venues so far have been Hanover, Berlin, Tübingen, Bethel and the psychiatric hospitals at Gütersloh and Düren.

Everything else depends on the spontaneity of those taking part. No expenses are paid to the heads of delegations nor to any other participants and, unlike most medical congresses, no money is forthcoming from industry.

Many psychiatric institutions object to their staff attending these congresses as they always used to be dismissed as a meeting-place for angry young men with no practical experience of psychiatry.

But even in the early days this criticism only applied in so far as those taking part were usually under thirty and violently attacked the harsh reality of psychiatric care in the Federal Republic.

In the meantime these congresses have changed their character. They used to be dominated by medical students and assistant university lecturers but now most of the participants are doctors, social workers and nursing staff.

Since the congress has taken place in large hospitals the older and younger generations have been able to meet to discuss the problems facing psychiatry today.

Criticism is also constructive. During the past year more and more senior doctors and university staff have agreed to lead the working groups. They include Professor Winkler of Gütersloh, Professor H. E. Richter of Giessen, Professor Flegel of Düren and Professor Kulenkampff of Cologne. There is general agreement that the problems of psychiatric care are largely the result of inadequate psychiatric training.

Dr Klaus Dörner of Hamburg, one of the chief members of the Mannheim Circle, believers that the congresses are extremely beneficial: "You get to know people with the same interests. You get to know people of your own or other professions with whom you can discuss the theory and practice of psychiatry. You get to know people from your own area and are able to work together with them afterwards.

"In short you realise you are not alone in your work or in your endeavours to bring about changes. When you are together with people of roughly the same point of view you do not need to defend yourself all the time and are able to indulge in self-criticism.

"More and more of the working groups are concerned with advanced psychiatric training. But working groups are often set up spontaneously to discuss particular issues. They pass political resolutions which do not always remain ineffective.

"Meeting in large hospitals has proved doubly beneficial. Planning the congress and seeing it through activiates the staff of the hospital in question. Secondly, patients can also attend the working groups, adding more variety to discussions. The doctors then work with the patients instead of for them."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 May 1973)

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 May 1973)

Birth dearth

According to the Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden there was a dearth of births in this country last year. The number od deaths was 30,000 higher than that of live births. From the Federal state figures so far released the only states with a birth surplus were Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria.

The greatest rate of live births was in Baden-Württemberg with 12.3 per thousand of population. This state also had by far the lowest death rate (10.1 per thousand).

This is largely due to the favourable age structure of Baden-Württemberg, and that in turn can be ascribed to the high number of immigrants there (8.8 per cent). Lower Saxony had a high birth rate (12.2 per thousand), but its death rate was approximately as high.

The greatest loss of population was in Berlin with an excess of 20,800 deaths over live births. Next came Hamburg (10,500). In Berlin, where the average age is high, more than twice as many people died as the number of live births registered.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 May 1973)

Experts examine effects of alcohol on the liver

Every year over one million people in the Federal Republic contract liver disease. Alcohol plays a major, if not the decisive role in more than fifty per cent of cases. The annual congress of the Industrial Medicine Association held recently in Munich discussed the quantities of wine, beer and spirits that could prompt liver trouble.

Statisticians take the easy way out and merely note that every person in the Federal Republic drinks an average of 2.19 litres of champagne, 144 litres of beer, 16.7 litres of wine and 3.32 litres of spirits a year. An average 12.19 litres of pure alcohol is consumed and adults over fifteen spend an average 591.60 Marks a year on drink.

But when does drinking start to affect health? Professor Egmont Wildhirt, a recognised specialist in liver disease, tried to provide the congress with a binding answer to this question.

Alcohol is indisputably poison for the liver, he stressed. Close links existed between the regularity and extent of alcohol consumption and the development of liver damage.

But it is impossible to forecast the effect alcohol will have on the liver. "Some people can drink enormous quantities of alcohol for years and not suffer," he explained, "while others drink moderately and are taken ill."

But this is no excuse for excessive drinking. There is already reliable information as to the dangers of alcohol. Speaking as a liver expert, Professor Wildhirt stated: "Daily consumption of up to eighty grams of pure alcohol over a period of years should do no harm. Between eighty and 150 grams a day increases the danger and when the level reaches more than 150 grams a day there is a high risk of cirrhosis of the liver."

It must be stressed that these guidelines are no indication of when consumption of alcohol becomes addictive. They are also considerably higher than the level at which alcohol in the blood becomes a cause of alarm.

Drinking habits have changed, Professor Wildhirt told the congress. "It used to be the members of the upper classes who suffered most liver damage as a result of alcohol consumption," he explained. "But the number of blue and white-collar workers with diseases of the liver induced by alcohol has increased in recent years."

"It is well known that some professions are more likely to be threatened by alcohol than others," he stated. "The building industry is one example. Recently there has been an alarming rise in the number of cases of liver disease, especially among the young."

Dr Heinz Ehrlicher, a works doctor from Leverkusen, confirmed these findings. He conducted a survey among the staff of a chemical works and found that only 13.9 per cent of the workers did not touch alcohol.

A total of 24.1 per cent claimed they only drank on special occasions while 20.7 per cent described their consumption as moderate. By this they meant they only drank one, two or three times a week and never consumed more than "normal" quantities of alcohol.

As many as 41.2 per cent openly admitted drinking regularly. Their usual daily ration amounted to one or two bottles of beer and a schnapps.

As many as 76 per cent of the chemical workers claimed that their favourite drink was beer, fourteen per cent preferred wine and ten per cent liked a drop of the "hard stuff". But nobody admitted to drinking excessive quantities of alcohol.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 May 1973)

Squint detection

As many as 5.3 per cent of all chi... in the Federal Republic squint; one in three is not treated early eno... Dr Wilfried de Decker and Dr J. Tes... of Kiel University Eye Hospital f... during a survey conducted among 1... schoolchildren.

As family doctors have so much w... already and rarely have the opportu... to examine these children, Dr de Deck... and Dr Tessmer propose that this sho... be the duty of those doctors w... inoculate infants. Few children will ... through this net, they explain.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 May 1...

Research to use anti-histamines to fight allergies

Asthma patients and people w... suffer from hay fever may soo... able to obtain successful treat... doctors agreed after the second ... congress of the European branch ... Histamine Club in Marburg.

The congress, attended by 120 de... from all over the world, devoted m... its attention to the development ... successful antidote to histamines – ... hormones of the circulation that ... prompt allergies by contracting mu...

Professor Jim Black of Scotland ... the congress of the anti-hista... "burimamide" and "mediamide" th... had developed. They are currently b... tested in British hospitals.

Dr Wilfried Lorenz, the co... secretary and professor of bioche... and experimental surgery at M... University, claimed that researchers ... now in a position to recognise the ... of histamines in the ...audicles... circulation.

They were discovered more than ... years ago by Professor Eugen Webr... Munich in whose honour the congre... held in Marburg. Professor W... recently celebrated his seventieth ... day.

The anti-histamines will fo... extremely important part of ... treament. At present one per ... accident victims die as a result o... allergic shock caused by the infusi... plasma.

Penicillin allergies can also ... counteracted with the help of anti... mines. Professor Lorenz claimed ho... that an official register should ... compiled so that doctors could im... diately learn of the possible side-ef... of the drugs they use. Persons suff... from allergies should also carry a ... mentioning this fact.

Too few psychiatrists

Professor Caspar Kulenkampff ... Cologne, the deputy chairman of the ... administrative association covering ... of this country's largest psychi... hospitals, claimed at a meeting ... Werneck Castle near Schweinfurt ... there was a shortage of nine hund... psychiatrists at the hospitals belonging ... his organisation.

Professor Kurt Geidicke of Münst... head of the organisation, stated that ... staff situation varied from unsatisfac... to disastrous. He was sceptical ab... plans to include small forty to eighty ... psychiatric wards at general hosp... however as there was a danger that ... large psychiatric clinics would be un... to give their patients sufficient care ... attention if too many small psychi... wards were set up too quickly at gener... hospitals.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 May 19...

■ CAREERS

Graphology – or interpreting handwriting

One typically German characteristic has not changed – even in this age of economic boom. Almost one person in two applying for a job is asked for a sample of his handwriting. Even telephonists, bricklayers and executives have to have their handwriting analysed.

When the head of an American metal concern visited his European adviser in Frankfurt he asked whether it was true that firms in this country hired their staff according to their handwriting or whether the whole affair was one big joke.

He was thunderstruck when he learned this was true. The Federal Organisation of Employer Associations recently conducted a survey revealing that almost one job in two is awarded on the basis of handwriting.

The science of graphology is still not generally accepted. A number of doubts have been cleared up over the past few years and the Federal Organisation of Employer Associations has received a large number of reports in favour of handwriting tests.

Though there have been a number of incongruencies in practice, the Organisation's reports claim that the state of scientific research and past experience have demonstrated that graphological reports are a justifiable and practical method of selecting personnel.

A spokesman for Frankfurt Chamber of Trade and Commerce claims that the number of firms demanding handwriting samples from applicants is far less than the estimated 55 per cent. Not so much emphasis was placed on handwriting in concerns with a high staff turnover, he added.

The Frankfurt Chamber of Trade and Commerce provided no detailed survey of the proportion of firms which demand samples of handwriting from would-be employees. But the spokesman stated that smaller firms were having difficulties in obtaining urgently needed staff.

The larger firms with household names would not let an unsatisfactory handwriting sample hinder them from employing suitable personnel in view of the current shortage of manpower, the spokesman added.

Frankfurt Labour Exchange is also unable to supply exact details about the number of firms demanding a handwriting sample. The press department believes that the percentage is quite high where senior positions are concerned.

A survey conducted by the Federal Organisation of Employer Associations revealed that 75 per cent of applicants accepted on the grounds of their handwriting lived up to the expectations of the graphologist.

Apart from the Federal Republic Austria and Switzerland are considered to be countries where analyses of handwriting play a major role in staff selection.

Genuine handwriting experts are now staging fierce resistance against newcomers to their trade. Local telephone books list anything between 24 and 40 handwriting experts in the area they cover.

Some of these graphologists are said to have learned their profession by means of correspondence courses, if at all. They are the black sheep that bring an honourable profession into discredit. Any person can call himself a handwriting expert as there is neither a standardised training course nor a law forbidding outsiders to describe themselves so.

Advertisements read: "Woman graphologist to advise on industrial reports, staff selection and private, marital or staff questions" or "Scientific graphologist, provides comparative handwriting analyses for future marital partners" or "Qualified psychologist with knowledge of graphology, publicly-employed handwriting specialist, will provide reports for industry, commerce and private individuals. Also advice in cases of mental conflict". Some graphologist also offer marital analyses, reports on a person's sexual qualifications and research into what they describe as the person's fate.

Herr Mayer, one-time head of Stuttgart welfare department, has had some odd experiences with graphologists. He once asked a psychologist working for the department to examine the handwriting of a painter who wanted to work for the local authority.

"There are no grounds for doubting or questioning this man's suitability in any respect, neither as far as character or professional qualifications are concerned," the psychologist concluded.

But a medical report described the same man as an anti-social and unstable psychopath and drunkard whose criminal record included cases of fraud, grievous bodily harm and robbery with violence.

In recent years there have been heated discussions about whether graphology is a science. Laymen tend to accept it as such but Robert Heiss, professor of psychology at Freiburg University claims: "The graphologist's work is at best a lucky combination of art and science, but at the same time a hybrid of the two."

Peter R. Hofstätter has made a name for himself as professor of psychology at Hamburg University. "There are also graphologists in the United States," he comments, "but they are looked upon in much the same way as people who read tea leaves."

Irrespective of whether graphology is a science or a type of fortune-telling, extensive surveys have been conducted by a number of universities in this country and the findings suggest that there are no obvious features connecting handwriting with character.

Experts found that handwriting does not reveal what a worker must be like in this age of automation. It does not demonstrate whether he is a good technician or not. Meanness, jealousy, thoughtlessness and talents required for a certain profession cannot be read from a person's handwriting either – at least not reliably.

But handwriting experts believe they are on firm ground when determining intelligence, thought patterns, maturity, will-power and self-confidence. But they still find trouble in discovering specific qualities.

One of the reasons for this is that graphology is based on findings gained from the comparison of handwriting and character. Critics make this fact their target and claim that handwriting analyses depend largely on intuition. And Professor Hubert Rohracher of Vienna has proved that intuition is not a scientific method.

Wolfgang Friedrich

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 May 1973)

OUR WORLD

Seamen's missions strive for a new image

Sailors, far from home, could once be made to feel happy and contented with a knitted pullover, a pair of comfy socks and a warm meal. These were the pleasures that attracted sailors to go to the church service in the German seamen's mission in a foreign habour. The modern view is that the sailor today in supertankers that travel at super speeds is no longer interested in visiting missions abroad that are run with a strong religious flavour. But the Bremen-based German Seamen's mission is of a different opinion.

The chairman of the Bremen organisation, Dr Heinrich Maas, commented: "Knitted pullovers and warm socks no longer have a part to play in this matter, but missions abroad are still looked upon as being responsible for the wellbeing of our seamen when in harbour and even on the high seas. Sailors learn that the church has not forgotten them."

There are sixteen missions in the Federal Republic and 32 abroad where sailors can go. They are open to seamen of all nationalities irrespective of race or creed. And it has often happened that sailors from this country have had to go to sailors' mission from another nation because foreign sailors are at the German mission. For example a mission in Africa was visited in the course of one year by 24,000 seamen, only one third of them being from this country, the other two-thirds were of other nationalities.

New problems have confronted the missions with new developments in maritime affairs – container ships, the roll-on-roll-off system and the limited turn-round time that many ships operate on. There is also the question of ships sailing under a flag of convenience. Many crew members of ships of this sort are German-speaking, according to Dr Maas, so they welcome an opportunity to speak German when possible, otherwise they feel totally isolated. On the other hand foreigners working on German ships are welcomed.

The activities of a seamen's mission abroad is very different from the general view held of a 'Christian' mission abroad would be like. Dr Maas points out that in Cameroun, for example, the mission has a sickbay for seamen, in the library there are newspapers from the Federal Republic available and there is a swimming pool. The mission also organises trips up country so that seamen can learn a little about the interior of Africa and perhaps dispel some prejudices and eradicate ignorance. These activities, according to Dr Maas, have given seamen's missions abroad an acceptable image.

The German Seamen's Mission, which receives four million Marks annually from the Evangelical Church, has an element of internationalism about it. Fifty-two Christian seamen's missions met in Rotterdam in 1969 and founded the International Christian Maritime Association. The missions work together with trade unions and shipping companies to improve the social welfare facilities offered to mariners.

It is intended to build among other things an ecumenical mission in Felixstowe, Britain. More than 2,000 sailors from this country pass through Felixstowe annually. It is also proposed to coordinate the activities of the various seamen's mission in Pireus, the port for Athens. This has been made necessary because of the increase in the number of German sailors visiting Pireus as a result of the reduction in shipping passing through Alexandria and the closing of the mission there.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 May 1973)



(Photo:

Klaas Evers – model-boat builder extraordinary

Klaas Evers from Norddeich, East Frisia, is the master of the Federal Republic's smallest shipyard and he has no sales problems. He is absolute ruler of a fleet of three-masters, fishing cutters, frigates and Chinese junks.

Week after week Klaas Evers puts down the slipway in his living room one sailing vessel after another. Commenting on his success at selling his productions he said: "More and more people with money who sail in their spare time want to have in their living room or in the dining room a replica of a windjammer."

Models of sailing boats made by Herr Evers are also considered good presents for business associates who have the same love of the sea.

Klaas Evers has no competition in his line of business in this country or even in Europe perhaps. Less expensive productions from Spain and Hong Kong do: worry Herr Evers. He says: "They are machine-made. Mine are all done hand."

Boats for smooth waters and fig: bristling with cannon have been b by part-time seamen from Mexico Bavaria. Many a sailing vessel dating the early times of nautical wandering had its keel laid in the small h Norddeich. He has made for exa model of the *Cutty Sark*, the tea that used to sail from China to E loaded with tea; almost all the way verge of capsizing so as to be the with the new leaf on the market.

But the highspot of the small ship is a small fishing boat with tackle lockers aboard. This took Klaas E hours to produce and is available f Marks.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 15 M

Wild West in Bavaria runs into trouble

It looks like a set for a Hollywood Wild West film – the saloon, the sheriff's office, the doc's surgery, a church with a cemetery, the fire brigade, a smithy, a newspaper office, in this case *Frontier News* – all so exact it looks just like what televiewers are used to seeing as a town in the Wild West.

Until a little while ago this town was inhabited. A steak could be ordered in the restaurant, and a visitor could spend a night in the hotel and go with a steam train round the town to marvel at the various wonders from the Wild West.

For cowboy fanatics this was the top of the tops – Hot Gun Town near Grafrath, not afar from Munich. Every hour there was a staged bank robbery, with nine dead every day, in the Silver Saloon the dancers kicked their legs high in the air in the can-can, and in the streets the cowboys had fist fights.

The town was the brainchild of Anton Lötschert who has nearby his flourishing Märchenwald, fairytale land, visited annually by 180,000 people, so why should not a fairytale land that caters for adults flourish, instead of Hansel and Gretel a display of gangsterism?

No sooner was the idea born than it was put into operation. Herr Lötschert drew up plans, obtained approval and at a cost of 3.6 million Marks built his Wild West town on land that had been leased to him for an extension to his Märchenwald.

But as soon as the project got under way protests flowed in from all sides. The public outcry claimed that the Wild West town furthered brutality and was a menace to young people still in puberty. Officials closely examined Herr Löschert's project.

Things began to move swiftly against Hot Gun Town. Officials examined the objections of Herr Löschert's opponents. They claimed that Wild West culture led to Fascism, and banned shooting in the grounds. Then the sheriff was forbidden to shoot gangsters from the sa The results were fewer and fewer vis When Herr Löschert threatened to sue authorities for compensation he met a little success in his battle to continue was decided that 15 bullets could be daily.

Then the public outcry found an matter to complain about – noise. there was traffic congestion and sanitary arrangements. Herr Lösch opponents never expected to successful with their complaints withdrew from the matter. His rants were closed so he closed the project and is preparing a case officialdom.

Hot Gun Town is now a desert town. Although the opponents of project have achieved their aims, matter is not finished for Herr Lösch

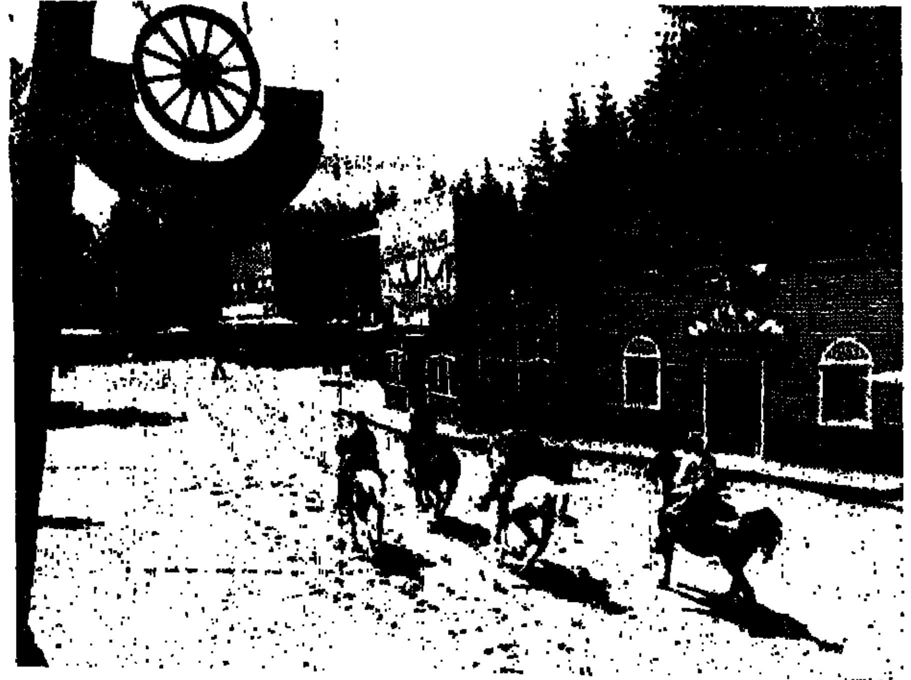
Anton Löschert does not think exhibitions of Wild West life can have bad influence on people. So he is taking up the cudgels against his opponents.

He is the epitome of the self-made and finds it hard to understand people have opposed his project that attracted tourists to the area and in process made a good profit for him.

He blames all his troubles on police machinations and states that he intends to press ahead.

Ludwig Maaßen

(Die Zeit, 4 May 1973)



(Photo: Hot Gun Town)

SPORT

Glider ace Grosse, star of a soundless sport

Hans-Werner Grosse has a glider's sixth sense, his friends and rivals in the air maintain. But this is only half the story. Few glider pilots do their homework for major events and record attempts more conscientiously, methodically and thoroughly than fifty-year-old Lübeck textiles salesman Grosse, a man who sets up new standards with each passing year.

The gliding season has only just begun in Europe but Grosse has already created a sensation in the air by covering the 827 kilometres (517 miles) of a three-cornered flight between Mölln, Bebra, Nordhorn and Mölln in 8 hours 51 minutes, a staggering average speed of 92 kilometres an hour (58 mph).

Never before has so great a distance been covered in this event and to crown the achievement Grosse stayed airborne and flew on to Rendsburg, thus managing 930 kilometres in a ten-hour flight.



Hans-Werner Grosse
(Photo: Lübecker Nachrichten)

Hans-Werner Grosse was gratified to have proved his point: "I always have said that given the right weather conditions gliding records can be set up in North Germany as well as anywhere else."

The only point that might have upset him does not in fact do so to any great extent. It is that the International Aeronautics Federation (FAI) only keeps world records for the three-cornered point-to-point run over distances of 100, 300 and 500 kilometres. No one covers distances of 500 miles – except, of course, Hans-Werner Grosse.

This, then, is his contribution to the annals of gliding – and not the first one, incidentally. On 4 June 1970 he set up a world record long-distance flight by flying 1,032 kilometres from Lübeck to Angers in Southern France.

On 25 April 1972 this record was beaten by Klaus Tesch of Hamburg, who flew 1,050.9 kilometres to Ancenie, a little further south. Not to be outdone, Grosse on the same day flew 1,460.8 kilometres from Lübeck to Biarritz – an uncontested world record and the non plus ultra of a soundless sport.

Grosse had borne out another of his prohecies. In 1968, following what was then a sensational world long-distance record of 1,098 kilometres set up by James Yates of the United States, the old hand from Lübeck calmly asserted that "given the right weather conditions Yates' distance can be equalled and even improved on in Europe." He went on to prove his assertion.

Lübeck's Grosse can lay claim to be one of the best glider pilots in the world. He holds any number of Federal Republic and world records, and in 1970 was runner-up to the world champion at Marfa, Texas, in the open class.

In those days (for his world records too) he flew an ASW 12. He has now graduated to an ASW 17 costing, including instruments and radio, at least 37,000 Marks.

In 1971 he was awarded the FAI's Lilienthal Medal. It is awarded yearly to one single pilot. Yet although he is one of the world's best he has never yet been Federal Republic champion – incredible but true.

Hans-Werner Grosse would echo the sentiments of ex-world champion Helmut Reichmann of Saarbrücken, who reckoned that "standards in this country are so high that it is more difficult to become Federal Republic champion or to qualify to represent this country at world championships than it is to win a medal when you get there."

This is something that many an experienced glider pilot in this country has found out to his cost. There is too little to choose between this country's really first-rate pilots.

Records held are neither here nor there when it is a matter of points towards a championship title or qualification. Yet when others throw in the towel Hans-Werner is still in there fighting and capable of extraordinary performances.

He will take to the air when others do not dare. He can fly a 500-mile three-cornered run round North Germany. But he failed to qualify for the 1971 world championships in Yugoslavia.

This country was represented by Klaus Holighaus of Kirchheim and Walter Neubert of Bissingen, who qualified with scores of 5,183 and 4,931 points respectively. Hans-Werner Grosse notched up 4,924 points – seven too few. The next world championships are to be held in January 1974 in Australia. Hans-Werner Grosse is determined to make the grade this time. The gliding weather in Australia is comparable only with parts of South Africa, Kenya, Argentina and Texas. Here he stands the best chance of improving on his own records. Besides, he has never managed to pull off the feat of becoming world champion, not even Federal Republic champion. Once, and once only, he has been runner-up, to the world champion. And this blot in his copy-book naturally spurs him on.

Karl Morgenstern

(Hannov. Allgemeine 25 May 1973)

Keep-fit duel

Campete, a game requiring both agility and concentration, comes from Bissingen, near Stuttgart. It consists of rotating discs and latex foam clubs, the idea being to dislodge the opponent. The game has been approved by the keep-fit campaigners at Sports League headquarters in Frankfurt. (Photo: Metropress)

(Photo: Sven Simon)

Swimmer Hans Fassnacht retires

Hans Fassnacht, this country's most successful swimmer since the war, is to retire. In the course of a phone call from Long Beach, California, to Frankfurt and Josef Neckermann, the mail-order magnate, Olympic showjumping gold medallist and President of the Sports Aid Foundation, Fassnacht made it quite clear that as far as he was concerned his career had come to a close.

"I no longer want to slave away at training in the way I have been doing. There is no longer any point in doing so for me," Sports Aid Foundation director Günter Pelshenke approximated the words of the 21-year-old Mannheim boy who has lived and studied in Long Beach for nearly four years.

Hans Fassnacht will not be crossing the Atlantic to take part in the Federal Republic championships at the end of July in Bad Godesberg and the world championships in Belgrade early in September have also lost their charms for a swimmer with two world and 22 European records to his credit. Fassnacht brought home three European championship titles from Barcelona in 1970 and was voted Sportsman of the Year three times in succession. In future he will be concentrating on his management studies (he plans to graduate in a year and a half) and on Carol, the girl he is to marry this August. The greatest day in his sporting career was to have been 28 August 1972, the day of the 200-metre butterfly finals at the Olympic pool in Munich. But the finals in fact turned out to be his most harrowing defeat and personal failure. The Munich Olympics proved a bitter disappointment for Hans Fassnacht. For a good three years his sights had been almost exclusively set on the day when he would win Olympic gold. Did the blow upset him too much?

Since Munich Hans Fassnacht's life would certainly seem to have found new directions. Fair enough. It is a pity that he can now no longer take a more resounding farewell.

On leaving Munich he did tell friends and officials of the Amateur Swimming Association, though, that he intended to return this summer and try to rehabilitate himself.

We might well have seen a Hans Fassnacht less under Olympic pressure and determined to prove not to his critics but to himself that he had not been in form on the day he was beaten to Olympic honours in Munich.

Rainer Siewert, who coached Fassnacht in Würzburg during the weeks before Munich, reckons it "not impossible that Hans, with the training he has behind him over the years, might have performed better than at Munich after a far less strenuous programme this season."

Fassnacht's sudden decision came as a complete surprise to Siewert. It also surprised his parents and Hermann Henze, the competition secretary of the ASA.

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"Hans Fassnacht," Henze comments, "has yet to notify us of his decision. But it is understandable that he has first contacted Josef Neckermann. I had still counted on him as a member of the 4 x 200 metres relay team for the world championships in Belgrade."

The news came as a bolt out of the blue for Fassnacht's father in Mannheim, who still harbours hopes of bringing son Hans round. But after the talk with Neckermann there can be little doubt that Hans Fassnacht has called it a day.

Rainer Siewert had only one comment to make on hearing the news of his protégé's retirement: "Pity!"

Gerd Heydn

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 May 1973)